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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis Arrive in Cairo for Subcommittee Talks

NC1511134693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's assistant chief of staff, arrived in Cairo today aboard a private aircraft at the head of a four-member delegation to attend the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee, which is scheduled to meet later today. The subcommittee will discuss security arrangements for and the difficulties obstructing the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza.

MENA has learned that during its meetings in Cairo last week, the Palestinian-Israeli Security Committee, which is led on the Palestinian side by President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser Dr. Nabil Sha'th, completed a considerable part of the arrangements for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and started discussion of the security situation there and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Jericho.

In a news conference yesterday, Dr. Sha'th threatened to suspend the proceedings of this subcommittee unless the Palestinian delegation obtained a written commitment from the Israeli Government that the Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons, numbering 10,000, are released before April.

Subcommittee Begins Meetings

NC1511144493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1347 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli subcommittee discussing the obstacles to an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho resumed its meetings in Cairo at noon today.

MENA learned that the subcommittee, co-chaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and General Amnon Shahaq, deputy Israeli chief of staff, will continue to discuss over two days of meetings maps showing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Jericho and from security points along the border with Jordan, as well as the control of crossing points with Jordan.

The subcommittee is scheduled to hold a third round of talks in Cairo next week.

Environmental Committee Talks Open in Cairo

Jordanian Delegation Arrives

NC1411182393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Nov (MENA)—A Jordanian delegation led by Durayd Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid arrived in Cairo this afternoon to attend the fourth round of the Environment Committee talks, stemming from the multilateral talks on the Middle East, which will open in Cairo tomorrow and last for two days.

Talks Open; Agenda Detailed

NC1511110493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—The Environment Committee of the multilateral talks stemming from the Madrid Middle East peace conference began its meetings in Cairo this morning. Egypt's delegation to the two-day meetings is led by Ambassador Hajar al-Islambuli, director of the Economic Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry.

The participants in the meetings will discuss the problem of desertification in the Middle East; the disposal of contaminated and solid wastes, particularly from oil; and pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba, which Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel overlook. Delegates from more than 40 countries in the Middle East, the Gulf, the Arab Maghreb, and Europe, in addition to the United States, Canada, Russia, China, and Japan, are taking part in the meetings. The committee meetings have been boycotted by both Syria and Lebanon, which are making progress on the bilateral tracks a condition for their attendance at the multilateral talks.

Sources close to the committee, which Egypt is hosting, have stated that the group will try to put the ideas and proposals discussed at previous meetings into practice. During previous meetings, the United States and some world major powers promised to bear the costs of the projects related to this issue in the region. The sources noted the importance of the discussions conducted by the five committees stemming from the multilateral talks, which are arms control, water, economic development, refugees, and environment.

Addressing the opening session, Assistant Foreign Minister 'Adil al-Safti emphasized that the new atmosphere of peace in the Middle East provides a chance for progress on all the peace tracks. He noted that progress in the bilateral talks will give the countries that are not participating in the multilateral talks the chance to do so. He noted that Egypt and the region's countries attach importance to the environment and the need to protect it. He added that if economic development does not take the need for a clean environment into account, it will be incomplete. He stressed that Egypt calls for establishing regional cooperation to protect the environment.

He reiterated Egypt's firm position that progress in the various areas of cooperation among the region's countries depends on progress in the bilateral talks. Al-Safti noted that the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East will give rise to the establishment of regional cooperation on a sound basis that serves the interests of the region's people.

The two-day meetings will examine all issues related to environmental protection and ways to deal with the desertification and drought affecting some of the region's countries.

'First Practical Breakthrough' Reported

TA1611060893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] There has been a first practical breakthrough in the multilateral talks on environmental issues. A joint Jordanian-Israeli venture was established at the Cairo conference in order to deal with sea pollution in al-'Aqabah and to protect the Gulf's coral reefs. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that the other delegations participating in the talks, including the World Bank, agreed to help finance the joint venture.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Libyan Minister Meets 'Abd-al-Majid, Views Sanctions

NC1511160893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met today with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the Libyan People's General Congress for unity, and Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League.

They reviewed the latest Arab and international developments in light of the recent Security Council resolution tightening sanctions against Libya.

After the meeting, al-Fazzani said he discussed with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid the developments of the common Arab action and the issues that concern the Arab world, notably Libya's position toward unified Arab action and threats to pan-Arab security. He said he also discussed bolstering the role of the Arab League as the institution that works for the higher interests of the Arab nation.

Asked about the effect of Security Council Resolution 883 on the Libyan people and neighboring countries, al-Fazzani said: Undoubtedly, the Libyan people will be deeply hurt and so will millions of Arabs, especially in the neighboring countries. He said that Libya is a partner of the Arab masses through thick and thin.

Al-Fazzani appreciated Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's efforts to solve the Libyan-Western crisis, saying: "We are looking forward to the results of his contacts." He said his country has been flexible on this issue and that contacts with the United Nations are continuing.

Libya Gets League To Meet on Arab-Israeli 'Encounters'

NC1611075493 Paris AFP in English 0123 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 16 (AFP)—Arab League delegates are to meet here Sunday [21 November] at the request of Libya, a League official said, to debate recent high-level encounters between Arab and Israeli leaders that Tripoli has denounced.

Libya had requested the meeting on October 20 and urged that it be held at the level of foreign minister, the official said Monday.

But support for such a gathering did not win the backing of the required two-thirds of Arab League members, according to League Deputy Secretary General Ahmad 'Adil.

As a result, permanent delegates to the Cairo-based League will conduct the meeting on Sunday, he said.

The Libyan request, backed by Syria and Sudan, urged that delegates call on member states "to conform to the spirit and the letter of the Arab League Charter." [passage omitted]

Maghreb Union's Amamou: No 'Separate Road' on Peace

PM1511124093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 5

[Yusuf Shakir report: "Maghreb Union Secretary General Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We View Palestinian-Israeli Accord Within Framework of Arab Position To Achieve Peace"]

[Text] Cairo—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Mohamed Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA], has said that the Arab Maghreb countries view the Palestinian-Israeli accord within the framework of the Arab position as a whole, they are not following a separate road, and they support whatever is likely to achieve Arab reconciliation and establish a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Amamou added that the crisis between Libya and the West has adversely affected the UMA's march, pointing out that the union supports international legitimacy and backs Libyan sovereignty. He added that the embargo against Iraq is decided by international legitimacy and that the UMA respects this legitimacy.

Amamou and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Ab-al-Majid signed a document in the offices of the Arab league General Secretariat yesterday on cooperation between the League and the UMA.

After the signing Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the document does not bring about a new situation but endorses an existing situation, and that he is following the same line he followed in the past with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He described the document as a means of reinforcing cohesion between the mother organization and regional organization, saying that the UMA is a principal Arab pillar.

Saudi Arabia Urges Free Trade Among Arab States

NC1311154593 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 13 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia's industry minister on Saturday [13 November] urged Arab states to tear down customs barriers to boost investment opportunities and bolster sagging inter-Arab trade.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil said this would facilitate joint projects and benefit regional economies, most of which are reeling under large foreign debts, slow growth, high unemployment rates and poor investment.

"Arab states should facilitate movement of their products among them as Arab products have a good quality," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily AL-KHALIJ.

"Arab states should also give more freedom for the movement of businessmen to open the markets for them. This will enable them to set up more joint projects that will benefit the economies of all Arab countries," he said.

But al-Zamil stressed Arab governments should reduce their interference in the activities of the investors.

Al-Zamil's comments are the latest in Arab calls for removing customs barriers that are blocking growth of trade among the Arab League's 22 members. Official figures showed inter-Arab trade has remained below 10 percent of the total Arab trade of more than 200 billion dollars a year.

Internal investment is also relatively low, standing at around 24 billion dollars compared with overseas Arab assets of 600-800 billion dollars.

"Saudi Arabia is encouraging the establishment of joint projects with Arab and foreign investors as part of attempts to gain experience," al-Zamil said.

He said his country, the world's leading oil producer and exporter, now had 334 joint projects around the world worth nearly 80 billion Saudi riyals (21.3 billion dollars). The Saudis own 52 percent of the projects, he added.

A massive industrialisation drive to lessen reliance on unstable crude export earnings has resulted in the setting up of around 2,000 factories with investment of 140 billion riyals (37.3 billion dollars), he said.

Sales of industrial products stood at 40 billion riyals (10.6 billion dollars) in 1992, including 2.66 billion dollars worth of exports, he said.

Al-Zamil put growth in the industrial sector, the biggest in the Gulf, at 6.5 percent and its share in the Gross Domestic Product at 10.5 percent. But he expected the share to rise to 11.25 percent by the end of 1993.

'Common Market' Ruled Out by League Official

NC1311161193 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 13 (AFP)—A proposed Middle East common market runs contrary to Arab interests and a long-standing boycott of Israel will remain in effect, a senior Arab League official said in comments published Saturday [13 November].

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily AL-ITTIHAD quoted Arab League assistant secretary-general 'Adnan 'Imran as strongly attacking a peacetime Middle East market promoted by the West to ensure regional prosperity.

"Talk about such a market carries groundless ideas and the subject is a promotional and unrealistic prescription," he said.

The pressure to promote such a market was designed to undermine Arab cooperation and solidarity and to serve enemy interests, he charged.

'Imran, a Syrian, said the Cairo-based Arab League would not allow the establishment of a Middle East market.

"What could be done is establishing cooperation between a common Arab market and other countries in the Middle East," he suggested. "Cooperation between Arabs and non-Arab states in the region like Iran, Turkey and Afghanistan already exists, so there is no need for dubious (Western) moves."

According to regional reports, the United States and its Western allies are said to be promoting a project to establish a vast Middle East market that will cover the Arab League's 22 members as well as Israel, Turkey, and Iran.

Arab states, lagging behind Israel technologically, fear it could hit their fledgling industries by flooding their markets with cheap products. Israel has said economic normalisation was essential for peace in the region.

"The talk about Israeli economic domination of the Arab region after achieving peace is much exaggerated because Israel is at the low end of industrial states in the technological and economic fields," 'Imran said.

"Its resources and capabilities are all imported from the Western industrial powers. It overestimates its economic power."

Israel, still locked in peace negotiations with its Arab neighbours, also hopes the League will end the 40-year-old economic boycott that has cost it about 50 billion dollars.

"We reject pressure to lift the economic boycott of Israel," 'Imran said referring to repeated calls from the

United States to do so. "The boycott will stay so long as Israel occupies one inch of the land it seized in 1967."

His comments echoed recent statements by Saudi Arabia's foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, that the boycott would be lifted only after a settlement of the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kuwait announced this year it was easing the indirect boycott of Israel but maintained a ban on direct dealing with the Jewish state. The UAE decided this month to tighten anti-Israel sanctions despite the breakthrough in the peace process.

Arab boycott officials had been due to hold their regular meeting last month but it was postponed indefinitely. No reasons were given.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Official Shbaytah Assassinated in Lebanon

NC1511165293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] A representative of the Fatah Movement in Lebanon, who is also the secretary of the Palestinian leadership in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp was assassinated at 1545 today. Mu'in Shbaytah was driving his Volkswagen, bearing license plates No. 963380, on the 'Abra road, east of Sidon, when assailants riding in a Mercedes, bearing license plates No. 1244429, cut him off at al-Hisbah junction, firing a salvo of machine gun fire at his car and hitting the tires. One of the gunmen then walked over to the Volkswagen and emptied his pistol into Shbaytah, hitting him with six bullets, one in the head.

Shbaytah died later at Hammud Hospital in Sidon, according to our correspondent.

Commenting on the killing, Abu-Husayn Farrud, a Fatah intelligence official in Lebanon, spoke of a scheme targeting Fatah officials in Lebanon. Farrud said that the hands that tried to assassinate Zayd Wahbah a few days ago are the same that assassinated Shbaytah.

Executive Committee Discusses Implementing Self-Rule

JN1511213193 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Chaired by brother President 'Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] The PLO Executive Committee this afternoon resumed its meetings that began in Tunis on Saturday [13 November] to discuss means of implementing the self-rule in the occupied territories.

A Palestinian official said the Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement will resume this evening the discussion it began last Friday.

News from Tunis said that the two meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Revolutionary Council were devoted to a briefing from brother President Abu-'Ammar on the results of his visits to Paris, Brussels, and Lisbon.

A Palestinian source said the talks this evening will deal with procedures to resume the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Egypt, and the formation of the Palestinian authority for the self-rule, whose bylaw was prepared by Palestinian President Abu-'Ammar awaiting its endorsement by the Executive Committee.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume in Cairo today within the framework of Gaza-Jericho Committee to continue discussing ways of implementing the agreement signed by the two parties in Washington on 13 September.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Concludes Meetings

Topics of Discussion Summarized

JN1511184393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Chaired by leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Revolutionary Council of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah, yesterday concluded its three-day meetings in Tunis.

The Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, said the Revolutionary Council adopted a host of resolutions, the most important of which was the formation of several working committees that will act as a shadow government for the national authority in the occupied territories to monitor the performance of that authority and all other committees concerned with the day to day life of Palestinian citizens, including economics, health, education, and other fields.

WAFA also reported that the Revolutionary Council discussed in detail the tasks awaiting the national authority, which will comprise 10 figures from inside the occupied territories and 10 from the outside, under the leadership of brother leader Abu-'Ammar.

The Revolutionary Council of Fatah Movement stressed the need for respect for democracy and pluralism during the transitional phase inside the occupied territories, and allowing everyone the freedom of expression under the umbrella of national unity.

WAFA reported that the Revolutionary Council voiced support for the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles agreement, signed on 13 September in Washington. It stressed that the Israeli entity must abide by the dates set in the agreement. It also the important role the Fatah Movement will play in the forthcoming phase.

WAFA added that the issue of Palestinian detainees and prisoners occupied a significant part of the Revolutionary Council discussion. Emphasis was placed on the need for further efforts to secure their release.

Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council meetings were attended by the former Palestinian prisoner, struggler Salim Zuray'i, who was honored on the occasion for the great sacrifices he and his comrades made over the years.

Political Statement Issued

LD1511223993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Nov 93

["Political Statement" issued by the Fatah Revolutionary Council "at the conclusion of its meetings" in Tunis on 15 November]

[Text] 1. National objectives and constants. On the basis of the need to face and respond to the requirements of building the Palestinian national authority in Palestinian territory, in implementation of the Declaration of Principles agreement; and in light of successive international, regional, and local developments and the need to use them in order to realize our Palestinian people's ambitions and their firm national objectives of freedom and independence, the Fatah Revolutionary Council, after hearing the Central Committee's report and the interventions of the members of the council over two full days, defines the following objectives as a plan of action for the Fatah Movement on the basis of Palestinian national constants, Fatah's objectives and principles, and the resolutions of our national councils passed at successive sessions:

A. Firm commitment to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our people in and outside the homeland, and as a national framework within which the burden of the leadership of the national struggle of our people will be borne until the firm and inalienable national rights, headed by the right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital, are achieved.

B. The establishment of the Palestinian National Authority as a base and springboard for the building by the PLO and our combatant Palestinian masses of an independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. The establishment of national authority on any part of the homeland's territory which has been liberated or from which Israeli occupation forces have been withdrawn is a reification of the Palestinian national authority plan which was endorsed by the Palestine National Council at its sixth session in 1974.

C. The achievement of a full and comprehensive withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Palestinian and Arab territories which have been occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The signing of the agreement on the Declaration of Principles, on the basis of which the Israeli Government sanctioned the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 on Palestinian territories during the transitional and final phases, conform to the resolutions passed by the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon countries on the basis for the discrepancy between the Palestinian course and the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese courses by virtue of the existence of a transitional phase in the Palestinian course.

The Revolutionary Council believes in the importance of stressing the Fatah Movement's commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy, the resolutions of Arab summits, and the resolutions of the foreign ministers of Arab countries taking part in the negotiations until a comprehensive solution is achieved on all fronts on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and in accordance with the Madrid formula, the letter of guarantees, and the letters of invitation to the Madrid peace conference.

D. Work toward removing all the Israeli settlements which have been established in our occupied territory in violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. These settlements will be considered as an inseparable part of the presence of direct Israeli military occupation. The Revolutionary Council stresses the need for full and unconditional withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces, settlements, and settlers, and the return of Palestinian territory, free and independent, in order to build a Palestinian national authority as the kernel of an independent Palestinian state.

E. Holy Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine and it is an inseparable part of our Palestinian and Arab territory which was occupied in 1967. UN Resolution 242 applies to it as it applies to all the occupied territories. The Revolutionary Council stresses the Fatah Movement's commitment to the Arab nature of Jerusalem in accordance with the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions which have rejected the annexation decision.

F. The Palestinian people are indivisible from the Arab nation and the independent state of Palestine is an indivisible part of the one Arab family. The Revolutionary Council confirms the firm and lasting adherence to the unity of the Palestinian people in the homeland and abroad, and commitment to their firm national rights to return, exercise self-determination, establish an independent state, and reject all settlement attempts and elimination bids. It considers the state of Palestine to be independent and the country for Palestinians wherever they may be, so there will be no scope to eliminate the Palestinian character or efface the Arab character and the unified national destiny which joins the Palestinian people and the Arab nation's masses from the Atlantic to the Gulf.

G. The Palestinian refugee issue concerns every Palestinian within and outside the homeland. The Revolutionary Council confirms the adherence of the Fatah Movement to the rights of our Palestinian people mentioned in international resolutions. UN Resolution 194 concerning the return of Palestinian refugees to their land and homes is the only resolution which forms an acceptable basis for a solution to the Palestinian refugee issue.

H. The Revolutionary Council confirms the adherence of the Fatah Movement to the agreed national common denominators expressed in resolutions passed by our National Council in its rotating sessions. The Fatah Movement calls on all Palestinian factions and national forces to unite and to stick together to participate in determining the national destiny, unchanging national principles, and strong democratic ties between our people's struggling national forces within the Palestinian house in order to achieve the firm national rights of our people.

The Fatah Movement, the pioneering and national protector of unity on the basis of brotherhood and purity, democratic dialogue, the political, organizational, and ideological independence of all factions, calls for a comprehensive national meeting to bolster national unity within the framework of the PLO, our people's sole and legitimate representative. This will enable the PLO to perform its national responsibilities in the homeland and outside, in integration with the role of the Palestinian national authority, which is the nucleus, foundation, and starting point for building an independent Palestinian state on the land of Palestine, in implementation of the resolution by our National Council which announced independence and the setting up of the state of Palestine in its 18th session in 1988. We celebrate its anniversary on 15 November every year.

2. The establishment of national free and independent economic construction. This may be accomplished by focusing on building an infrastructure which fulfills the requirements for the establishment of a modern, developed, and liberal economy which answers the needs of our masses and achieves development in various fields. This will be within the context of a free economy that guarantees social justice and helps to free individual initiative and mobilize resources, skills, experience, and Palestinian potential everywhere, within the framework of pan-Arab integration and in such a way as to safeguard for our people their political and economic independence as well as their affiliation to their Arab nation, past, present, and future.

3. The establishment of a modern social system. This should provide social care for the masses of our people and take care of the families of martyrs, the wounded, and the handicapped, as well as preparing programs to retrain cadres and struggliers among our heroes who are released from prison. These programs will enable them to take their place in their fledgling state so that they may continue to make sacrifices for their homeland.

4. Emphasis on the principle of equality between men and women. This should apply in all political, economic, and social fields and legislation should be passed that guarantees equality and protects families, in view of the fact that they are the first pillar in our Palestinian society.

5. The speeding up of the preparations for a national educational policy and educational curricula. In this way we may prepare the Palestinian generations for bearing national responsibilities and fulfilling the needs and aspirations of Palestinian society for further progress on all educational, economic, and scientific levels. The national Palestinian educational policy is based on the certainty that the Palestinian people are indivisible from the Arab nation and that Palestine is indivisible from the great Arab homeland. Palestine is the land of the three revealed religions, of forgiveness, and of tolerant coexistence. The structure of national Palestinian education should also be strengthened. This education has contributed to preserving the national identity of our people by drawing up advancement programs in literature, arts, and heritage, releasing the creative capabilities of our people.

6. The preparation of organizational structures inside the homeland and abroad. The factions and their central committees, bodies, and tasks should be reorganized so as to facilitate the implementation of the transitional program to establish the national Palestinian authority, with the aim of attaining an independent Palestinian state with its institutions. At the forefront of this is the taking of measures that guarantee the unity of organizational work and the undertaking of efforts to unify popular and vocational organizations inside the homeland and abroad; construction should take place according to the achievements and past experience accumulated during previous stages, and the freedom of trade unions should be guaranteed so as to strengthen the democratic structure of Palestinian society. The council took a number of organizational steps and decisions for an orderly, well-planned, and programmed transfer into the homeland.

O masses of our heroic Palestinian people. O brave sons of Fatah in the homeland. O heroes of the Palestinian revolution, in all its factions. O masses of the brave intifadah. O soldiers of freedom behind prisons bars and in detention camps. O sons of Fatah and sons of our people in the camps and in exile, this is the hour of the building of the homeland; sons of our people, let us join battle to build Palestine on the dear and free land of Palestine. You are the free soldiers, sons of camps and sons of the good land, you who carried the weapons for 30 years and turned the camps of exile into bases for revolution and armed struggle. We will [word indistinct] one epic after another in the intifadah of the heroes so that the banner of Palestine, of the revolution continues to fly high. To you we say this is your day, your day of freedom and independence; let us go to the land of the homeland in one line and collectively, you are facing the hour of the Palestinian truth, for which we have so often paid with our blood. The homeland will rise and you are the men of today and the promise of a bright future, the future of an independent Palestinian state. Let us go to the battlefield, O victorious men of the battlefield.

Media Accused of Anti-PLO Campaign

NC2011105993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1009 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 10 Nov (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources said that in his speech at the meeting of the Fatah

Movement's Revolutionary Council, which ended Sunday [14 November], Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat accused Western and Arab media of launching an organized campaign against the PLO. 'Arafat said the campaign has intensified in the past few days, noting that spying takes place in many countries.

The sources added that President 'Arafat called on the Council to work hard to prepare for entry to the occupied territories within a month. Many council members are expected to accompany the Palestinian leadership when it moves to Gaza and Jericho.

The sources said the Revolutionary Council reviewed the financial situation of the PLO and its institutions and recommended that some PLO property be sold or mortgaged to finance the operating Palestinian institutions.

Selection of National Authority Members Denied

TA1511155293 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Tunis—Jibril al-Rujub, a West Bank affairs adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has denied that the list of names for the Palestinian National Authority published yesterday in the Tunisian paper AL-SABAH. He said that appointment of members to the authority council is a prerogative of the PLO Executive Committee, which has not met yet to discuss this issue. Consequently, the report published in this paper is unfounded. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Shafi Declares PLO Must Honor Pledges

JN1511164693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1556 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, by radio correspondent As'ad 'Attar at Haifa University on 15 November, from the "With the Events" feature—recorded]

[Text] ['Attar] Commenting on recent murders and the attempt on the life of an Israeli national in Hebron this morning, we asked Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi about the PLO's pledges to renounce violence. We addressed the following question to him: How important is this pledge, given the recent acts of violence and the murders of innocent civilians?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is true that the PLO pledged to renounce violence. Hence, it must keep its pledges. However, the pledges the PLO made in this regard are one thing, whereas the life being experienced by the Palestinian people is quite another. These acts are not necessarily masterminded by the PLO. For, most often, they are individual acts committed out of frustration with the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

['Attar] Is a confederal solution to the Palestine question acceptable to you?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes. But, the confederal solution must be preceded by an independent Palestinian state. I believe that if an independent Palestinian state comes into being, the Palestinians will opt for a confederation with Jordan.

['Attar] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi: At the outset of the peace process, you expressed dissatisfaction. Today, we learned that you hope for the success of this process. Is there any contradiction here? Or have your views undergone a change?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I always hope that we will be able to exercise our rights to self-determination and independent statehood, no matter how this eventuality is attained. If this eventuality is reached by way of this accord, I will be very happy.

['Attar] Another issue, Abu-Khalid: The experience of Arab-Jewish coexistence here, at Haifa University, is an example for Palestinian-Israeli coexistence in the region at large. Do you agree with this premise?

['Abd-al-Shafi] At any rate, it is a coexistence experience that I hope will be promoted and developed. Any experience of coexistence, such as this one, is bound to reflect on the peace process.

Sha'th: Peace Conditional on Release of Detainees

NC1411214693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks between the Palestinians and Israelis, today threatened that the PLO will not sign the peace agreement scheduled for next month if Israel fails to submit a written commitment to release thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. At a news conference today at the conclusion of a three-day dialogue on ways to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Sha'th called for the immediate release of all Palestinian detainees, noting that the Israeli Government should not postpone the release under any pretext.

Faysal al-Husayni Interviewed on Peace Process

AU1611112393 Vienna PROFIL in German 15 Nov 93 p 62

[Interview with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni by Tessa Szyszkowitz; place and date not given; "I Am Disappointed"]

[Text] [PROFIL] Mr. al-Husayni, you will be visiting Vienna in a couple of days. Is Austria important for the Palestinians in this phase of the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Austria was important years ago, and we support small countries getting involved in international matters. If not us, Austria may support other nations in

similar situations in the future. It would not be right not to cultivate our good relations with Vienna just because we do not have such a strong need for them at the moment.

[PROFIL] After all, Austria is involved in several projects, such as the financing of a Palestinian cultural center in Jerusalem.

[Al-Husayni] Of course, such projects are very important. Jerusalem is not only significant politically, but also from a cultural point of view. After all these years of occupation, we need a cultural center so that our children can get acquainted with Palestinian culture.

[PROFIL] Will the new, conservative-religious government of Jerusalem make your work more difficult?

[Al-Husayni] Teddy Kollek and his Labor Party have never helped us—on the contrary. The question is not whether Labor was good or bad for us, but whether the situation is going to be worse under Likud. Up to now, we knew how the enemy was going to react. Now we will have to develop a new strategy.

[PROFIL] If you had called upon Palestinians to go to the polls instead of boycotting the elections, you would now have a direct say.

[Al-Husayni] We have not accepted the annexation of East Jerusalem. Therefore, we could not take part in elections for a Jewish city council of all of Jerusalem. Apart from that, Kollek decided to establish a new Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem five days before the elections. Should we have voted for such a mayor?

[PROFIL] In your capacity as head of the Jerusalem Committee, what development do you expect the city to take?

[Al-Husayni] Jerusalem will remain capital of our future state. We will work on that.

[PROFIL] Up to now, the Orient House in East Jerusalem was the headquarters of Palestinians in the occupied territories. What will happen to it when the PLO leadership moves to Jericho?

[Al-Husayni] The Orient House will remain our government's official headquarters, so that the Israelis can see where our capital is. Up to now, our meetings took place here, and we reported to Tunis. From January onwards, we will only have to go to Jericho.

[PROFIL] Are you content with the progress of the peace talks, or is it going too slow?

[Al-Husayni] I am disappointed because Rabin always makes the same mistake. When he was elected prime minister, everybody thought: Good, now he will make the promised peace. Instead, he is trying to please the right. And now again: first the agreement with the PLO, and then lengthy negotiations. He should have learned his lesson.

[PROFIL] Are the delays only the Israelis' fault, not also the Palestinians"?

[Al-Husayni] Of course we have our share in it, but we have made a number of concessions. This shows, after all, that we really want this peace process.

[PROFIL] Do you not fear that 'Arafat will want to decide everything himself and that the Palestinian leaders here in East Jerusalem are not going to be asked their opinions any more?

[Al-Husayni] 'Arafat is having a hard time. It takes two weeks to convene a PLO parliamentary meeting. 'Arafat has managed to get all his proposals accepted so far. This is good.

[PROFIL] What about preparations for the autonomy elections, as set down in the treaty?

[Al-Husayni] This is like everything else: First we need to know what sort of self-rule we are going to have in Gaza and Jericho. Only full autonomy means full control. And control means security. The less we can decide ourselves, the less we can safeguard the security of all people living in Gaza and Jericho.

[PROFIL] Do you think Jordan will make peace with Israel before autonomy has been negotiated with the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] Jordan is interested not to make peace with Israel before Syria does so. And this makes you ask: What came first? The Syrians only want to tell what kind of peace they are going to make if Israel announces first what kind of withdrawal it is planning. And vice versa. Both know that full peace is only possible with complete withdrawal. That is where they have to get. This could best be achieved through negotiations with a third party, the United States.

[PROFIL] Is it not irritating that since the secret talks in Oslo everybody is waiting for a big surprise, and no one knows what is going to be decided where?

[Al-Husayni] There are many different levels now. There are talks in Taba, talks in Cairo, then there are the levels of Rabin and 'Arafat, and in the end Clinton might also get involved. There are conferences everywhere, in Europe, in the Middle East. By the way, as far as I know, there is nothing going on in Vienna.

'Arafat Renews Palestinian Support for Iraq

JN1511195793 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Nov 93

["Text" of reply cable from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Iraqi President Saddam Husay n on the fifth anniversary of the declaration of the state of Palestine; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn: Greetings. On behalf of our Palestinian people

and my brothers, the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name I express my heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency—and through you—to your esteemed government and your fraternal people for your brotherly congratulations and honest wishes on the fifth anniversary of declaring independence, declaring the Palestinian state.

This national anniversary comes this year while our Palestinian people are getting ready to enter into a new stage in its long militant march by materializing the first real objective on the land of their homeland. This objective is represented by establishing their national authority and rehabilitating and building their national institutions on a dear part of their liberated homeland in Gaza and Jericho. This is the first step toward enabling our people to control all their affairs and potential, toward our people's self-determination, and toward enabling our people to set up their independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

In this historic and decisive stage, I am confident that sisterly Iraq, which supported our people in their just struggle to restore their inalienable national rights—including their right to repatriation, to self-determination, and to setting up their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital—will exert every effort to enable our people to achieve their freedom and independence. I am also confident that sisterly Iraq will support our people in this stage, during which they are setting up their national authority over the soil of their homeland.

On this occasion, I reiterate to Your Excellency our Palestinian people's support for the fraternal people of Iraq in confronting the unjust blockade and the inhumane starvation imposed on them and against their children. We are confident that the fraternal people of Iraq—supported by their glorious Arab nation—will be able to bypass these ordeals, to face them, restore their position and role, and continue their march of construction, development, and prosperity.

I wish you good health, happiness, and success and hope that the fraternal Iraqi people will restore their vigor and continue their road toward loftiness and prosperity.

We will remain together until we reach Jerusalem, with God's help.

God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Ambassador Bal'awi Interviewed on Yasin Spy Case

PM1211164693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, by 'Ali al-Salih; place and date not given]

[Text] Hakam Bal'awi, (Abu-Marwan), Palestine's ambassador to Tunisia, has said that the investigation of 'Adnan Yasin, who is currently being interrogated by the Palestinian security organ in Tunis on charges of working for the Israeli intelligence service "Mosad," will be completed within a week at the latest.

Asked about reports that 'Adnan may be moved to another country to stand trial there, Bal'awi, who is in charge of the central security organ in the PLO, said "there is no need to move him, he will stand trial in Tunis, as we have capabilities which Tunisian hospitality allows us to have. This hospitality grants us full and independent decisionmaking with regard to our issues without any interference in our affairs."

On the conflicting reports about the formation of the committee responsible for the investigation, Abu-Marwan told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—and this is his first interview with the press since the charges were revealed—that "when the case was referred to it, the Fatah Central Committee decided to form a committee comprised of Hakam Bal'awi and 'Abdallah al-Ifranji who in turn would choose security officials to interrogate Yasin. And indeed the committee chose the required authority, which began interrogating him immediately after taking custody of him from the Tunisian authorities." Bal'awi went on: "Thus, press reports about the committee's formation or the existence of names other the two names I mentioned earlier are absolutely untrue."

Bal'awi urged the press and the media to check their information before publishing it, so that they will not be faced with a state of confusion or publish inaccurate or untrue information. He also said that security questions will remain secret until the investigation is completed. Then it will be the media's natural right to convey the full details. He added: "On that basis, all that is said or published is mere speculation, because no other quarter knows anything about the course of the investigation. This is because the quarter responsible for the investigation is conducting it in complete secrecy and cannot leak anything to any party." He also said: "I would like to stress that all that has been published about the investigation is completely untrue and emanated from quarters which know nothing about the information or the issue." Bal'awi confirmed what he had said before, namely that suspicions concentrated on Yasin some time ago, "which is why I reduced his duties to the extent that he was denied many of the jobs which had been assigned to him, even though they did not have anything to do with security or political questions at all."

On his opinion of the reasons which prompted Yasin to do what he is charged with, namely dealing with Mosad, he said: "I believe that he is narrow-minded inadequate and has not got a solid political or intellectual background to prevent him from falling into the trap. Proof of this is his confession that they [the Israelis] told him that, if he is arrested, he should say that he is working for NATO." He went on: "Because he is narrow-minded and

has limited knowledge of politics, he does not realize the dimensions of this confession."

Asked about the fate of Yasin's family, Bal'awi said: "We cannot judge the family on the basis of its head's crime. Almighty God says: No bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another." He added: "Yasin's family is protected and no one can harm it, because its members have nothing to do with what the father did."

The medical treatment of Yasin's wife, who is suffering from cancer, is continuing. He also emphasized that [Yasin's] son, who is detained on the same charges, "so far has not confessed to anything that can lead to his conviction. But he is still being interrogated."

Information Obtained by Alleged Spy 'Minimal'

PM1211120693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanese National 'Abu-George' Recruited Yasin for Mosad in the Same Parisian Hotel Where Busaysu Was Assassinated"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—Informed Palestinian sources, contacted by AL-HAYAH from London, have revealed that a Lebanese national known as "Abu-George" was behind the recruitment of 'Adnan Yasin, the deputy to Palestinian Ambassador in Tunis Hakam Bal'awi, to work for the Israeli Intelligence Service (Mosad). The sources said that the recruitment took place in Paris in 1989, in the Meridian Hotel to be specific, where Palestinian security official 'Atif Busaysu was assassinated at the entrance in mid-1992. They added that Yasin knew the details of Busaysu's European trip, his movement plans between Germany and France, and the nature of his contacts but they could not say for certain that there was a link between 'Adnan Yasin and the assassination of Busaysu which was a major blow to the Palestinian security organs because of the network of relations he managed to build with Western security organs including U.S. organs.

The sources also said that an Egyptian later acted as liaison officer between the Mosad and 'Adnan Yasin.

On the importance of the information gathered through the camera and listening device planted in the office of PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) in Tunis, the sources said the information was minimal because the device was only planted early in October, just before the Palestine Central Council met to ratify the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Hamas Spokesman on Yasin Letter, Self-Rule

JN1311151493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 93 p 10

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, by Tawfiq 'Abid held "at the Islamic Action Front headquarters" in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Abid] The letter which the Hamas leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, sent from his jail continues to be controversial. Can you give us more footnotes regarding it?

[Ghawshah] We have confirmed receiving a letter from the jailed leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, founder and leader of the Hamas Movement. Before going into detail, it must be understood that Shaykh Yasin, may God hasten his release, cannot use his hands to write and that the letter was dictated. This means that some other person wrote it. Moreover, the circumstances in his solitary confinement in al-Ramlah District and the restriction imposed on him such as lack of information and the psychological war must be taken into consideration if we want to ascertain the accuracy of this letter.

We, in Hamas, are examining this issue with great detail, given that he himself said the contents of the letter is his personal opinion and is not binding on his followers unless they adopt it. All of these circumstances must be taken into consideration before reading the letter. This letter speaks about the phase through which the Palestinian people are passing after the recognition of the Zionist entity and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on 13 September 93 and the need to think deeply on how to address this phase without friction or internecine fighting, God forbid. It also emphasizes an understanding of the facts and the international circumstances surrounding the Palestinian cause.

The letter also calls for discussing the possibility of forming a Palestinian legislative council and Shaykh Yasin's approval of the idea. Therefore, we must differentiate between the idea itself and what is presented to the Palestinians in terms of an executive council and autonomy.

It is well known that we reject elections for autonomy and the formation of an executive council. However, if the legislative council is not connected with the autonomy and is not tied to recognizing the Zionist entity or conceding the Palestinian territory, that it is a council aimed to bring forth representatives for the Palestinian people from inside and outside the territory, Hamas thinks, and has always thought, this to be a suitable solution, provided fair and free elections are held.

There are also certain calls and discussions pertaining to proposals by the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat and a warning about these proposals and the risk that matters detrimental to the Palestinian people's interest could be forged at this stage because of the current imbalance of power.

Therefore, we say that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a form of submission. The Zionist side is imposing its terms with arrogance and force, be it in Taba or elsewhere. In this regard, Shaykh Yasin says that this agreement is a lop-sided one and its results are one-hundred percent in favor of the Zionist enemy.

['Abid] Frankly speaking, has Shaykh Yasin asked you to reconsider the movement's stands or did he confine his demands to participation elections?

[Ghawshah] Let us be clear about this. In his letter, Shaykh Yasin said that this was his personal view concerning the legislative council and that he leaves the movement's organizational councils to have their say, accept or reject. This means that the shura [Islamic consultation] principle is the binding one and any adopted decision will be binding. I would like to say that two months ago, the Hamas shura council rejected autonomy, and called for boycotting the self-rule elections, using nonviolent, peaceful means and persuasion. This stand will continue until the next ordinary or extraordinary session of the shura council is held. [passage omitted]

['Abid] How far along is coordination among the 10 factions opposed to the PLO-Israel accord? Have you worked out an agreement on the formation of a united front?

[Ghawshah] Intensive contacts have been going on since the Gaza-Jericho accord; the intention is to co-opt further factions. A political formula and political program were hammered out on 23 October, 1993. [passage omitted] I regret to say that brothers in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have had certain reservations about the political formula and the political program, and suggested that the alliance be named the national Palestinian front leaving out or diluting the adjective Islamic by calling it the the national, pan-Arab, democratic, Islamic front.

As for the political program, the FFLP and the DFLP then proposed adherence to UN resolutions and a phased solution, something disapproved by Hamas and most of the Palestinian factions. The latter reasoned that UN resolutions call for relinquishment of certain Palestinian rights and that a phased solution envisages extending recognition to the Zionist entity.

Both issues will come up for a review in the next few days in the hope that brothers in the PFLP and the DFLP may reconsider. We hope to hammer out a formula for the political program acceptable to all parties.

We in Hamas are anxious to promote a consensus. We are also anxious for Palestinian opposition to remain effective and a force to be reckoned with in the wake of the Gaza-Jericho accord and the PLO's recognition of Israel.

['Abid] Are there any efforts being exerted to bring you closer to Fatah, especially given the existence of a powerful tide of opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord within the group?

[Ghawshah] Where is this powerful tide of opposition you are talking about? We have attempted to get in touch with leading opposition figures in Fatah, including Hani al-Hasan, Muhammad Jihad, and 'Abbas Zaki. Regrettably, this Fatah tide was not to be found, neither in the occupied territory nor outisde. Will you show me a Fatah leader who has stood up to be counted as a proponent of the group's program to liberate Palestine in line with Hamas' program?

We are at a loss to explain the stagnation of the Fatah cadres and leaders. They have failed to take a stand alongside the Palestinian people, and sold out on the Palestinian cause in return for the Gaza-Jericho accord and recognition of the PLO.

['Abid] We heard that some Fatah fighters who are opposed to the accord have joined Hamas ranks and are now active within 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions. Is it true?

[Ghawshah] Yes, but they are far fewer than we had counted on. We had expected far greater numbers to join us. The opposition within Fatah's Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council has failed to reflect itself in the field, whether in the occupied land or outside of it. [passage omitted]

Hamas Affiliate Welcomes Attack on Israeli Settler

JN1511214493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The battalions of martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, who are affiliated with the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas], have issued an explanatory military statement, commending those who kidnapped and killed Zionist settler Mizrahi. The brigades affirmed that they urge all free people to come forward to avenge the martyrs' blood, and to proclaim the responsibility of any party they desire, without having to announce their real identities and affiliations.

The brigades added: For our part, we commend the course being pursued by the strugglers who reject the commands issued by the 'Arafat leadership, those who have kidnapped and killed a settler and contacted news agencies claiming the responsibility of the battalions of martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam for the operation.

The statement issued by the brigades went on to say: The al-Qassam battalions would like to affirm that they will not close their doors to all strugglers who prefer to work on their behalf, as long as the issue concerns attacks against settlers and enemy soldiers. We would like to announce to the world public and to our people's sons that we will patronize such groups and extend to them every possible financial and moral support. As for their families, they will enjoy our care. This is because they are free fighters who refuse to succumb to the occupation and its allies.

The statement said: We denounce the 'Arafat leadership's position, which condemned the acts of such groups to appease terrorist Rabin.

Habash Sees 'Protracted' Confrontation to Accord

TA1511180093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] Damascus, QUDS PRESS—Dr. George Habash, general secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has said that confrontation with the Gaza-Jericho accord will be protracted and, consequently, the preparations for this confrontation should be studied and well prepared to ensure the required results.

Habash stressed that the 10 factions opposed to the accord have taken a long stride in arranging their ranks and situation.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Habash added that following several meetings of dialogue and discussion "we reached agreement on the aim that binds the 10 factions, epitomized by two basic points. They are: Foiling the accord and rebuilding PLO institutions on the basis of a national charter and the program of repatriation, self-determination, and national independence in accordance with democratic and popular action."

Habash said that the 10 factions will work intensively to ensure that the self-government authority will not live for long. He expressed confidence that this authority will not fare better than the Village Leagues.

Habash strongly denied the possibility of a split in PFLP ranks, organized by Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council. [passage omitted]

PLO 'Internal Crisis' Undermines Peace Moves

JN1411125993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Nov 93 pp 1, 3

[By JORDAN TIMES Staff Report Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—An internal crisis within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is undermining efforts to chart a negotiating strategy to implement the Israel-PLO autonomy accord and undermining the unity of supporters of the landmark agreement signed on Sept. 13.

The crisis, triggered by what critics see as PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's singlehanded approach to negotiations with Israel, has gained serious momentum over the last two weeks as disgruntled officials and negotiators have sought to build up support for organisational reforms.

Mr. 'Arafat has so far ignored calls by his colleagues to introduce organisational and political reforms, prompting some Palestinian negotiators and experts to consider withdrawing altogether from talks with Israel over implementation of the autonomy accord.

"The accord itself is loaded with landmines. If we fail to put our act together it will explode in our face," said one PLO official.

A memorandum circulated this week in Amman and the Israeli-occupied territories by Palestinian officials and negotiators demanded immediate reforms and setting up specialised political and legal committees to chart out negotiating strategies and lead the transition to Palestinian autonomy.

The memorandum has been endorsed by the Palestine People's Party (PPP), a number of independents and even several well-placed Fatah officials who are hoping to create public pressure on Mr. 'Arafat to change his tactics.

According to PLO officials, Mr. 'Arafat has sought to exclude his closest aides, including the architect of peace talks with Israel, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), from the decision-making process.

Since the signing of the autonomy accord in Washington, Mr. 'Arafat is said to have taken unilateral decisions and made appointments without consulting his colleagues or experts.

Mr. 'Arafat's decisions have aimed mainly at asserting his leadership and preempting others from assuming any position of prominence and significance.

In the view of many PLO officials, Mr. 'Arafat is trying to exclude any potential rivals, from within Fatah in particular, from assuming a key role to ensure that he will have the upper hand in the future entity.

Initially, however, Mr. 'Arafat tried to appease his critics by agreeing to suggestions that politicians and experts formulate plans for the formation of a Palestine National Authority (PNA) and an economic and development council in a way that reconcile between professional and political expertise.

He also appeared to accept that the composition of the negotiating teams should be based on professional expertise. In fact Palestinian politicians and experts had reportedly worked for at least two weeks writing out detailed definitions and descriptions and terms of reference for political and technical teams.

But Mr. 'Arafat kept on procrastinating the actual process of discussing the appointments and strategies until the very last moment when he practically hand-picked the negotiating team to the Taba talks—reducing all written plans and advice to waste.

In retrospect, Mr. 'Arafat seemed to have gone along with his colleague only to ensure their support and ratification of the Oslo accord at the Palestine Central Council (PCC) last month in Tunis.

The memorandum being distributed to gather signatures reminded Mr. 'Arafat that the PCC ratification was qualified by measures that could guarantee an efficient Palestinian performance—through political and organisational reforms.

"The endorsement of the majority of those who voted (at the PCC) in favour of the declaration of principles (with

Israel)—judging by their presentations at the meeting—was conditional upon improving the Palestinian performance and the mobilisation of all Palestinian potentials...because there is an acute awareness that the accord will either lead to Palestinian independence or the consolidation of Israeli occupation," the memorandum said.

A month after the PCC session, many officials and negotiators are reaching the conclusion that if Mr. 'Arafat continues to pursue his "autocratic" leadership the Israeli-PLO negotiations will close the door against all possibilities of an independent Palestinian state.

In an article published in AL-HAYAH last month, Nabil 'Amr, a former PLO ambassador and close aide to Mr. 'Arafat indicated that it was high time to restructure the organisation and that the new era needs a new leadership.

PLO officials who are leading the "opposition from within" movement, insist that they are by no means ready to join the opposition but will not tolerate Mr. 'Arafat's practices.

It is not clear how far and how coherent the emerging coalition will prove to be. They—just like the opposition—come from different political backgrounds. Mr. 'Arafat might successfully appease some of his critics by appointing them to important positions.

"The aim is to gather momentum for a movement of change from within," said one PLO official involved in the reformist drive. "Thus even if some drop out it will not matter once popular pressure is built up on Mr. 'Arafat."

Analysts do not rule out the possibility that some might join the reformist camp to improve their bargaining position in the current power struggle over positions in the negotiating team, the PNA or the economic council. The "Reformists," however, are expected to face serious obstacles.

Mr. 'Arafat's critics from the Fatah Movement have been reluctant to apply pressure on the PLO leader partly for fear of splitting the Fatah Movement and partly because they risk losing their livelihoods.

Secondly, if they succeeded in convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), they will find themselves confronting both Mr. 'Arafat on the one hand, and hardline opponents of the accord on the other.

Aware of such a definite possibility, Mr. 'Arafat is most likely to try to corner his critics by trying to force them to choose between the "peace camp and the "opposition."

Thirdly, even though many PLO officials, including some from Fatah, seem ready to demand the resignation of Mr. 'Arafat if he does not abandon his singlehanded methods, it is still not clear if either Mr. 'Abbas, who said to support the "reform movement" or Faruq Qaddumi, who is the second-in-command of Fatah, is ready to take over—or can muster the needed support.

Mr. 'Arafat has been apparently trying to play Mr. 'Abbas and Mr. Qaddumi against each other by alternately "promoting" or "excluding" them from the "decision-making circle."

But PLO officials and analysts point out that the issue is no longer an in-house powerplay as international donors are voicing dissatisfactions with the PLO politics.

The prospect for change so far seem slim, especially that the PLO is badly split over the accord, and the power struggle has intensified as Mr. 'Arafat want to ensure his control during the autonomy period.

But even if Mr. 'Arafat succeeds to deflate the mounting discontent, Palestinian officials and analysts expect opposition to widen and deepen, particularly once the Palestinian autonomy is set up and leadership moves to the occupied territories.

Algeria

FIS Threatens Strike Against French 'Interests'

AU1511152393 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Paris, Nov 15 (AFP)—Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has threatened to strike against French nationals and interests in a communique sent to AFP's headquarters in Paris on Monday [15 November].

The communique, dated November 14 and written in Arabic, was signed by Abdel Razak Redjam, a spokesman for the group's executive council which went into hiding in spring 1992 after the military intervened to scrap the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Since then, armed fundamentalists have been waging a guerilla war against the security forces and last month kidnapped three French consular workers in Algiers who were later released.

The French government retaliated last week by launching a nationwide crackdown against suspected Algerian fundamentalists and questioning about 100 people, including the head of an Algerian group close to the FIS.

The man, Djaffar El Houari, whose organisation the Algerian Brotherhood in France (FAF) is seen as a front for the FIS, was placed under house arrest Saturday and three other key figures were indicted.

In the authenticated communique, Redjam said, without specifically naming France, "that those cooperating with a regime that has no other objective than to remain in power will be linked to the crime being committed against Algeria's people," and will have to suffer the consequences by seeing "their own nationals hit and their interests destroyed."

"The government of a country that calls for the respect of human rights and then goes on to arrest dozens of Moslem Algerians and provides material support to the fascists (in power) is the real party responsible for the death of its nationals," he said.

The communique went on to say that the FIS refuses any "negotiation, reconciliation or ceasefire with the coup leaders" and that only a "radical change" would be satisfactory.

According to rumors in the Algerian capital, authorities there are trying to establish contact with members of the FIS in order to open negotiations that could lead to fresh elections.

The government has not denied an Algerian newspaper report that a member of its dialogue commission has held preliminary discussions with a former FIS leader, Abdelkader Hachani, held in preventive detention in Algiers.

FIS Talks With Government Reportedly Suspended

LD1611095193 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Athens, Nov. 16, IRNA—Talks between Islamists and the Algerian regime to find an end to the crisis in Algeria have been suspended, a spokesman for the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) told IRNA. "There are no more talks. The dialogue has been called off and the situation is very tense in Algeria," FIS spokesman in Europe, Rabah Kebir, told IRNA by phone from Germany.

He said the authorities have started kidnapping Islamist intellectuals and are torturing them. "They tell the people that those intellectuals are terrorists," Kebir added.

FIS Spokesman Notes Opposition to Dialogue

LD1611112293 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] In Algeria the hardline branch of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] made clear yesterday that its threats against foreign nationals had to be taken seriously and that it was out of the question to hold discussions with the authorities. This warning came in the form of a communique by the FIS provisional executive bureau. This communique number 42, dated Sunday [14 November], was sent to press agencies yesterday.

The FIS spokesman for Europe, Rabah Kebir, implicitly confirmed the origin of the communique. However, he said he opposes assassinations. As far as possibilities for a dialogue are concerned they will have to be addressed one day but the conditions for a dialogue are extremely remote, he said.

[Begin recording] [Kebir] Negotiations are needed because the (?date) itself is not a goal but the current conditions do not allow for a dialogue to be considered. While they speak of a dialogue, they are torturing jailed FIS leaders, even Cheikh Abassi Madani, who is suffering from a [kidney or gall] stone. Under these conditions it is impossible to consider a dialogue.

[Unidentified correspondent] Therefore you will not take part in this national conference?

[Kebir] I believe that it would only serve to look for a mere pretence of democracy, for a sham; that is all. [end recording]

FFS Sets Conditions for Participation in Dialogue

LD1511232093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The Socialist Forces Front [FFS], led by Hocine Ait Ahmed, today specified the adoption of urgent political and security measures as its condition for participating in the second round of the dialogue. In its reply to an invitation from the national dialogue commission, the FFS linked its participation in the second

round of the dialogue to the lifting of the state of emergency, the release of political prisoners, the abrogation of special courts and laws, and the guaranteeing of freedom of political activity.

The FFS statement, which was published in the national press today, said that compliance with these demands would achieve real concord and firmly establish civil peace. The FFS, which has not rejected the invitation for another meeting with the national dialogue commission, stated that the draft agenda of the latter does not meet the requirements of the situation.

Kidnappers Release FIS Founder

NC1511125593 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 15 (AFP)—A founding member of Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has been released by kidnappers who vowed to strike against fundamentalist extremists, the EL KHABAR newspaper reported Monday. [15 November]

Mohammed Tidjini Boudjelkha, a mathematics lecturer at Algier's Bab Ezzouar University, returned home on Sunday [14 November] evening, the daily paper said, quoting "informed sources."

It gave no details of the circumstances in which Boudjelkha was freed and did not say whether security forces had intervened.

Boudjelkha was kidnapped on November 8 after hooded and armed gunmen claiming to be police officers burst into his home late in the evening. His wife Asma told authorities that on Thursday she received an anonymous phone call telling her that her husband was in the hands of a group known as the Organisation of Free Young Algerians and that he was a traitor.

The organisation, which claimed to be anti-fundamentalist, surfaced almost two weeks ago and has vowed to "make supporters of those shedding the blood of Algeria's children pay the price for their action."

A tract distributed by the organisation said that it will apply the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth" in carrying out its campaign.

In another development, the independent daily L'OPINION reported that in a clash on Sunday, security forces injured one of four Moslem fundamentalists wanted for kidnapping three French consular officials last month.

The newspaper said that Mohamed Guezmir, 24, was wounded but managed to escape during the clash at El Biar on the highland outskirts of Algiers.

Algerian authorities have said that nine people were responsible for kidnapping the consular staff on October 24. The three were freed a week later after a security operation.

Four of the nine kidnappers are still on the run, one has been arrested and four have been killed, officials said.

Armed fundamentalists have been waging a guerrilla war against the security forces and the government since January 1992, when the military intervened to cancel the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Hamas Leader Interviewed on Violence, Dialogue

NC1511115893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, 15 Nov (MENA)—Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement (Hamas) in Algeria, has stressed that dialogue and consultations are the ideal option for resolving the current crisis in Algeria and that returning to legitimacy and holding elections as soon as possible are the way to end the political crisis.

In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Algiers, Cheikh Nahnah said that Hamas' participation in the national dialogue committee stems from its desire to present its views on various issues and from its belief in the importance of dialogue for ending the current crisis.

On the possibility of having a dialogue with the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Mahfoud said: We have called for the participation of the wise people of the FIS who reject violence as a means of solving problems in the national dialogue. We have expressed our willingness to play a mediator's role that serves only the homeland's supreme interests and not narrow partisan ones so that we can calm the atmosphere by releasing the prisoners of conscience, referring them to the normal administrative judiciary, and abolishing the special courts.

He added that the National Dialogue Committee's statement clearly referred to the participation of all those who prefer dialogue and condemn violence. He said that this statement includes a direct invitation to the wise people in the FIS, like the others, to help restore security and stability to Algeria.

Regarding the future of violence in Algeria, the Hamas leader saRd that violence is alien to Algeria's Arab Muslim society and that this phenomenon is a result of ignorance of the true Islamic religion and a lack of understanding of democracy. He stressed that violence is rejected by the shari'ah and the law.

Mahfoud Nahnah stressed that the absence of participation and dialogue are the causes of the phenomenon of violence in the Arab world, adding that the time has come for the Arab regimes to begin a dialogue with the existing political parties. He noted that it is illogical to have an Arab-Israeli dialogue at a time when there is no political dialogue between the political forces inside the Arab countries.

In reply to a question about those responsible for the kidnapping of foreigners in Algeria and the recent measures taken by France, Cheikh Mahfoud said that those

who carry out these acts want to destabilize Algeria and impede the national dialogue. He stressed that these acts violate international laws and norms and also the tolerant religious values. He noted that such acts aim to mar Algeria's image, isolate it from the international community, and distance it from its Arab and Islamic affiliation. He said: The friendly countries that have economic and cultural ties with us understand the issue and give cooperation priority in the interests of their citizens.

Nahnah denied the allegations that Algeria is moving toward a civil war. He said that this is completely baseless, and stressed that the Algerian people have the potential and resources to overcome this crisis very soon.

Security Forces Kill 13 Members of Armed Groups

LD1511231293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] On the security level, security forces have announced that they killed 13 members of armed groups in the province of Boumerdes, the capital, and Ain Defla over the last four days. The statement adds that among those killed was Amri Azeddine, considered the right-hand man of Said Makhloufi, one of the main leaders of the armed groups. The statement said that many members of these armed groups have been detained in Jijel, Constantine, and Mila, in addition to Tizi Ouzou and Blida, during search operations.

Egypt

Afghan President Arrives in Cairo, Meets Mubarak

Received by Mubarak at Airport

NC1511153893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak received the guest at Cairo Airport and accompanied him to an official welcoming ceremony at the presidential palace in al-Qubbah.

Rabbani is accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising his deputy, Shaykh Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi; the ministers of higher education, electricity, and waters; and a number of Afghan political leaders.

Extradition of Islamic 'Militants' Discussed

NC1511214093 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, Nov 15 (AFP)—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani arrived here Monday [15 November] for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak on Islamic militants whom Cairo wants extradited from Afghanistan, officials said.

Mubarak would urge Rabbani, on a three-day visit, to "ban the presence of Egyptian militants on Afghan territory," the sources said.

Cairo accuses the militants, already convicted by Egyptian courts, of planning and financing "terrorist" operations.

Islamic militants declared war on the Egyptian authorities in March 1992, launching a wave of violence in which at least 225 people have died.

The officials said Mubarak would propose that an extradition treaty be signed between the two countries so that the militants could be handed over to the Egyptian authorities.

Mubarak and Rabbani would also discuss bilateral ties and the problems of Somalia and the Bosnian Moslems, an authoritative source said here.

Egyptian-Afghan ties were strained recently when several Afghan officials said they were ready to welcome the spiritual leader of the Egyptian armed militants, Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. He is being held in the United States, in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York in February.

On Saturday Rabbani told Egypt's Middle East News Agency that Afghanistan "will not allow anyone ... plotting against the security of Egypt to seek refuge on Afghan soil."

Presidents Discuss International Issues

NC1511195093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak and Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani held a round of talks at the presidential palace today. The two presidents later resumed their talks at a dinner banquet President Mubarak held in honor of the Afghan president and his delegation. The banquet was attended by senior state officials.

A radio correspondent has learned that the talks dealt with a number of international issues, notably the Middle East and the current peace endeavors, developments in Somalia, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in Afghanistan, and bilateral relations in all fields. The two presidents will continue their talks at the presidential palace tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

Presidential Talks Resume 16 Nov

NC1611080793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning resumed his talks with Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani at the presidential palace in Cairo.

The two presidents held a round of talks last night.

Musa Assesses Talks

NC1611105293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said relations between Egypt and Afghanistan are historic and the ties between their people are longstanding.

In a statement following the expanded round of talks held today between the Egyptian and Afghan sides under Presidents Husni Mubarak and Borhanoddin Rabbani, Musa said that interrelations in developing the Islamic world, the memory of Jamal-al-Din al-Afghani [19th century Afghan intellectual and scholar], and the continuing ties between the two peoples require restoring these ties to the normal course we want. He said that members of the Egyptian delegation to the talks met their Afghan counterparts following the expanded round to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Asked whether there are any moves to open an Egyptian embassy in Kabul, 'Amr Musa said: There is something new in this respect. The embassy will open soon, now that the necessary measures have been taken.

On security cooperation between Egypt and Afghanistan, the foreign minister said: This issue is being discussed, but not at the political level. He noted that Afghanistan's circumstances are "unique."

Musa stressed that the entire world, including Afghanistan, opposes terrorism and anything that scares societies, because terrorism and terrorists are the enemies of the people and no Islamic or non-Islamic government or regime has any interest in supporting such a criminal wave. [passage omitted]

Musa Calls For Israel To Abandon Military Supremacy

NC1511155793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1421 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on Israel to abandon military superiority theories and work for a balance that achieves and strengthens security.

Commenting on reports that Israel is eager to keep its military supremacy and receive massive aid from the United States, Musa said: I do not know why Israel needs all these planes and huge support.

Musa said that military superiority is not in the interest of peace; indeed, it adds to the tension in the region. He said such issues, and disarmament in the region, should be discussed through the Working Group on Disarmament, stemming from the multilateral talks.

The foreign minister stressed that unless a balance in disarmament is achieved, peace will not prevail and competition will continue in the region, with each side seeking to achieve superiority over the other. This, he added, will lead to a security imbalance, reflecting negatively on the region's peace and stability.

Mubarak Addresses Opening of Parliament Session

NC1211164593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1010 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak before a joint meeting of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council at the opening of the new parliamentary session in the People's Assembly hall in Cairo—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

Our meeting today comes at the beginning of a new session, which we hope will herald a new phase of national action to which our loyal people aspire with great hope and confidence. Our people hope for a brighter future that will carry Egypt to the 21st century as a secure and stable country, enjoying a strong economy, sound democracy, and a distinguished position in our changing world. Our people have confidence in their ability to achieve this objective and to transcend all difficulties and obstacles. They are encouraged in their resolve on the road to progress by a strong feeling of affiliation that balances between rights and duties and that links the individual's interest with that of society.

The people have expressed their conscientious desire in delicate conditions, during which Egypt has been exposed to sudden dangers aimed to diminish its hopes and dreams. But the people have defended their sacrifices and achievements. They are determined that the homeland's march will remain secure and geared toward its correct objectives. This march will build a homeland devoid of hatred and grudges, which will prosper with free opinions and the correct advice. This homeland will correct its course, confident in its steps and that its choice is right. It will dedicate all its efforts to constant development to benefit all its citizens and pave the way to progress for its coming generations with the light of knowledge and the tolerance of faith.

This great people have proved that they can, in every circumstance, be teacher and guide. They give a clear lesson to all those who falsely imagine that they can control its fate. Every time Egypt faced challenges that could endanger its security, undermine its interests, or expose its national unity to danger, the Egyptian people adopted a proud and strong stance, united by their challenging spirit, becoming a strong front. They are motivated by an unbending willpower and a strong resolve capable of making miracles.

The huge masses that went to the polls on 4 October did not only seek to give their views in a free referendum, but, with their penetrating sight, they realized the nature of the challenge confronting them. They did not hesitate to answer the call to give everyone a lesson in genuine

patriotism, strict commitment to the supreme national interest, and true alignment with the important priorities dictated by the needs of the current stage and the requirements of the future.

The advocates of sedition and backwardness wagered that the people would be passive and shun participation. They believed their lies that the people could not see the right path or development in views and concepts. They made public calls for instigation and spread rumors to encourage violence. They claimed that most people are indifferent to events in Egypt. They believed their lies and claims. But the people, true to their mettle in times of hardship and challenge, raced to the polling stations, setting a good example and consolidating the true values of national action. Huge masses emerged throughout Egypt to declare their views aloud to clear the haze blurring the hearts and minds of the advocates of sedition. They, regrettably, cannot see.

Praise be to God that he bestowed on us the trust of a faithful people whose very essence shows a benevolent nature that exalts the values of righteousness and duty, and backs sincere effort and good intentions and deeds. Praise be to God that he bestowed on us the trust of a great people who know how to put things in the right place, repel evil, and unmask evil intentions disguised behind pretense and resounding slogans. Praise be to God, brothers and sisters, for this precious trust. I respond to this trust with an honest pledge to make boundless efforts [applause] until the last drop of my blood and the last beat of my heart. We view this trust as a magnanimous and splendid authorization not to exercise power, but to continue to strive and perform our duty in defense of the homeland's interests and rights.

Brothers and sisters, the people wanted me to keep shouldering the responsibility for a third term, which will continue until the 21st century. A new age is taking shape characterized by a feverish international race to get the means to progress. This age will not give those who slacken or linger a chance.

The great and exhaustive qualitative changes in our contemporary world since the ideological age and totalitarian regimes collapsed will accelerate remarkably. This will fundamentally change life in an unprecedented manner. The arms race will give way to another race, that of mastering science and knowledge and dedicating them to serve the national economy. Gaps will widen between those who can invest national efforts to serve sound priorities and those who prefer to remain underdeveloped, keep their eyes shut to reality and changes, imprison their minds within worn-out and obsolete concepts, and squander their national effort in mazes that go nowhere and incorrect priorities.

Gaps will widen between states that can steer their plans, programs, and objectives toward the present age by introducing new ideas and enjoying a creative spirit to use the march of progress and other states defeated by fear and backwardness, states that are content to wait and give in to fate.

This is the great challenge facing us on the threshold of the 21st century. The vastness of our country, the enormity of our population, the brilliance of our position, and the leading national and regional role Egypt has played throughout history will not help us in the march of progress unless we review our programs, objectives, and priorities to become part of that advanced world and interact with it actively by giving and taking, influencing and being influenced, importing and exporting, giving and reaping benefits, and becoming part of that progress. Continuing Egypt's leading roles over the ages will depend on its ability to compete for progress in a ferocious ring in which only those who have the elements of progress can compete. The first element of progress today is a strong national economy that grows by relying on itself and linking science with production in an integrated system that is always developing and always creative.

Our only choice is to accept the challenge so that we will not simply be reacting to others, accepting what others impose on us, or regretting being in a position that is unbecoming to Egypt and its great people. [applause]

We all refuse to allow this to be our fate, especially as we possess all the prerequisites that qualify Egypt for a continuous renaissance that will secure for our country the means of progress and will ensure for its people their distinguished position through history. Our only option is to be part of this new world, contributing to its formation armed with a comprehensive and futuristic outlook based on an enlightened and responsible realization of the priorities of national work, its challenges, and its objectives. Our march must proceed toward the beginning of the 21st century confident of our course and objective.

Brothers and sisters, a few weeks ago at this esteemed forum on the occasion of the swearing-in for a new constitutional term, I sincerely invited all the democratic forces in Egypt to start a free comprehensive dialogue on the priorities of national work that will consider the challenges facing Egypt and the circumstances governing Egypt's regional and international relations as well as the horizons that could be dealt with through national work during the next stage.

My aim behind this dialogue remains: to allow us all to contribute toward drafting a sound scientific outlook for Egypt during the 21st century that will reflect the pulse of the Egyptian people and place the priorities of national work within a national framework that should bypass narrow partisan views. This would enable us to build our domestic front on strong foundations and also ensure an effective and influential Egyptian presence in the international arena of competition. [applause]

This scientific concept could start being drafted with all the Egyptian thinkers and intellectuals regardless of their affiliation; political parties; and the official and popular

institutions concerned with planning and scientific research, social studies, and modern sciences participating in the broad-based dialogue. Ultimately, a national committee of experts could draft a united comprehensive outlook.

I hope the final formula for this program will be the result of a broad-based dialogue that will assure every citizen that we are eager to know his free and frank opinion. This will also assure every legitimate political group that respects the Constitution and law that every one of us will shoulder his share of the responsibility and national obligations within the framework of the objectives, policies, and programs that are agreed upon. Through dialogue, our knowledge increases, vision becomes clearer, confidence is achieved, roles are delineated, and hearts and minds are put at ease. All this will serve the country.

The efficacy of any program depends on various factors. It depends on clear objectives, a well-defined timetable, sufficient funding, efficient executives to supervise its implementation, and informed follow-up efforts to ensure that it is implemented on schedule.

I don't think we differ on this. But the right starting point is to agree on clear and unambiguous objectives for our program. Our main objectives are:

First, we should preserve our country's security and stability. Every citizen should feel that his life and property are safe.

Second, we should strike a balance between the needs of the population and the ability of society to fulfill these needs through comprehensive, fruitful, and continuous development.

Third, we must broaden the popular participation in everything that is important to the homeland. This applies to decisionmaking and to the method of confronting the masses' problems.

We should recognize these objectives, discuss our priorities, and agree on a plan of action that suits our hopes and abilities. Guided by this overall national outlook, we need to assign responsibilities to our government, constitutional bodies, and popular organizations. The public should come to see in our program their own hopes of a better, speedier implementation of projects and its close, comprehensive supervision.

Brothers and sisters, we look forward to a new legislative term in which you will resume your national task in achieving important legislation laying down the sound legal framework for a free democratic society, a society that seeks a balance between public and individual rights, and a society that is determined to protect the homeland's path from any danger it encounters.

Brothers, you are here before a great nation. I believe you will give voice to its hopes and demands. The legislation you will pass will consolidate the values of work, cooperation, and initiative. This legislation will maintain a balance of interests among the various sections of our society and by so doing maintain our national cohesion and the strength of our social fabric.

On behalf of the people, you will supervise all the aspects of executive work. I trust that you will defend justice, promote national interest, and uncover and correct any mistakes. In doing so, you will have no one to supervise you, but your own conscience. [applause]

Your performance of your national mission during the previous legislative session was a source of appreciation and admiration. We now begin a new phase, which carries great hopes and requires continuous work to achieve our loyal people's hopes. I look forward to your fruitful cooperation with the government for the homeland's benefit to safeguard all the citizens' legitimate interests and guarantee our national march its correct priorities.

Brothers and sisters, in light of these clear priorities, this Byzantine argument over what comes first—political reform or economic reform—becomes a waste of time and a waste of effort. This argument looks as if we are before two contradictions, which we cannot reconcile. Those who discuss the priority of political reform are fully aware that Egypt discarded all aspects of a totalitarian society when it embarked on a serious political reform accompanied by economic reform. Egypt made democracy a system of life and government, not a mere facade or an experiment that could receive a setback at any time and under particular conditions. Egyptian democracy in its current form needs no one's testimony. It is true testimony to the scale of the comprehensive and drastic change in the shape of the government and society. It is a beacon for several states and peoples who aspire to achieve what Egypt has achieved in terms of real democracy, giving everybody the right to expression and partnership.

To be more frank today, going by the accepted norms, I say things have gone too far. Daily, we see deviation and incitement to commit violence and break the law. We witness excesses in the name of democracy. This is when democracy highlights the need to adhere to the controls specified by the Constitution and the law.

Brothers and sisters, democracy is not chaotic behavior or a chaotic stance. Democracy does not mean a departure from national consensus. Democracy is not a demagoguery that fabricates the wrong priorities and imposes them on the masses. Democracy is not the fabrication of fictitious battles to scatter the national effort and tear society apart. Democracy is responsible behavior, clear principles, and a barrier against error and misconduct. It draws the dividing line between the permissible and the impermissible and between right and wrong. It has uniform laws that make everyone equal before the law. It upholds justice and legitimacy and deepens the feeling of every citizen that his willpower is safe and untouchable as long as he adheres to society's control. Its controls are a beacon for society's march and a basis for safeguarding its balance and stability.

Brothers and sisters, democracy is a legal and moral framework that adjusts society's course and protects the march of national action to prevent one group from impinging upon another, preclude the imbalance of the various authorities, and avoid confusing the lines that separate rights from responsibilities. In democracy, there is no right that is not contrasted by a duty. Rights and duties are two sides of the one coin, together shaping the sound framework for the individual's conduct and responsibility. In a proper democratic regime, institutions flourish, sound values take root in individual and collective conduct, the national interest takes priority over all others, and the collective national will rises above individual will, because the people are the masters who make the decisions and because individuals are mortals. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, the cornerstone in a sound democratic practice is to expand the base of involvement so that the national decision can reflect the majority will and everyone can be governed by the rules the society establishes to protect the march of national action and avoid the confusion of norms or obscure the line between democracy and anarchy.

Those who went too far by violating society's codes harm democracy, they kill it, because they make it the equivalent of destruction instead of a creative and inspiring power that protects the national structure and urges everyone to contribute even more.

We restrict no opinions, no matter how different they are. No disagreement angers us, no matter how vast the gap may be. We foster freedom of expression because we believe that free expression is the torch that sheds light on the truth, as long as it is honest and objective and preserves national interests and if it rises above being a whim, a means of realizing personal interest, or a dagger that stabs national efforts or circulates lies.

There is a big difference between freedom of the press and abusing the press. [applause] Freedom of the press means respecting the law and the Constitution, maintaining confidentiality, being committed to truth and objectivity, and enhancing the democratic course by respecting legitimacy, abandoning violence and terrorism, and being committed to society's basic values and principles. We respect the full freedom of the press within the limits of the law and Constitution. However, we can never tolerate using this freedom in a manner that harms national interests [applause], because that widens the gap between the press and democracy, turns the press into an axe that destroys freedom and disfigures democracy, and makes it a crime deserving of litigation.

We will not question a thinker who expresses his views, no matter how different his views, as long as he does not violate the law.

Democracy has essential conditions that cannot be relinquished. Otherwise, chaos could result and destroy society. The first condition of democracy is respect for the law and the Constitution. There is no discrimination between the majority and the minority when it comes to exercising democracy. All people are equal before the law and the Constitution. As the majority is required to respect the minority's right to express its position and views, the minority is required to submit to the views of the majority, because it expresses the views of most of the people. No minority, no matter how loud its voice or the clamor, can intimidate the majority or make it submit to its wishes and priorities. [applause]

We are most concerned about a solid democracy that will benefit the homeland. Our top priority in terms of national goals is national stability, because we are confronting a serious challenge imposed on us by outlawed groups that use terrorism to impose their destructive course on the homeland's will. We insist on linking political reform with economic reform, because we firmly believe that the democracy will be strong and sound if it is based on sound economic foundations able to satisfy the needs of the vast majority of our working people. We consider democracy to be an endless effort that thrives on broad participation and majority agreement. Based on this premise, I maintain that we are determined to promote our democratic march in a way that benefits our homeland and serves its basic goals of stability, development, and progress and motivates our masses to participate further in this process.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, among our national priorities is completing the economic reform program—for numerous reasons. The first reason is that the economy is the mainstay of life, the criterion of power in our modern age, and a guarantee for progress. Without a strong economy, it is difficult to talk of a secure and stable society or a strong state ability to fulfill its people's requirements and enjoy a sound democracy. A homeland will not be strong and dignified with independent decisionmaking and a national will if it can't address its faltering economy and if it continues to consume more than it produces, import more than it exports, and borrow more than it can afford to repay.

Economic reform remains a national Egyptian necessity. Had we not embarked on economic reform, our economy would certainly have declined, our masses would have suffered such that they might have been deprived of staples, and the national structure would have collapsed. Major empires and powers collapsed despite formidable armies and mighty fleets, because they failed to streamline their capabilities to secure a strong economy able to fulfill the masses' needs and possessing the means of continuing growth.

The second reason we place economic reform at the top of our priorities is that the economy is the most decisive factor influencing citizens and the main factor shaping their view of their present and future. Completing the economic reform program eventually means market commodities becoming plentiful enough to ensure stable prices. Economic reform means more job opportunities

for the unemployed and better services such that the masses feel a tangible improvement in their lives.

Brothers, my concern for the difficulties faced by the majority impels me to reiterate that nothing should take precedence over completing the economic reform program. Another reason for giving precedence to this reform is that the longest and hardest part of the reform path is already behind us. A firm foundation has been laid down, one on which we may build great hopes.

The urge to see quick results is, of course, compelling. But the fruits of any economic reform program never grow overnight. These fruits take years to appear and abound. There has been much suffering in the past few years, but I believe the worst is over.

We have renovated the infrastructure and achieved a massive program for replacement and renovation, spending about 144 billion pounds [$38 billion]. Without such expenditure, we couldn't even begin to dream of progress.

We have implemented financial and economic policies that charted the path of reform and defined its main features. But ahead of us lies further effort to undertake overall structural reforms, which have already started on various fronts in a united, concerted, and harmonious way.

We thank God that we have settled the issue of debts. Fifty percent of the country's foreign debt—a figure amounting to more than we spent on infrastructure, renovation, and replacement projects—has been written off, taking our foreign debt to its 1981 level. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, during economic reform, we must concentrate on pivotal issues and translate our objectives into well-defined plans and programs. We must focus on expanding our agricultural and industrial production. This expansion should crown the achievements of the past few years. Without production increases, our reforms will remain sterile and the money we have spent on infrastructure, replacement, and renovation will be wasted.

We must increase our production and the quality of our products. So, we must speed up the implementation of the big projects of the third development plan, an ambitious plan costing approximately 154 billion pounds. This plan will create approximately 3.2 million jobs. It will also involve the private sector in a big way.

Expanding our production should be matched by an increase in our exports. Only an increase in exports will help the economy achieve its potential and promise. So, the quality of products is a decisive factor that can hardly be exaggerated. Quality is the passport for any product to the international market. We must make the quality of our products competitive with that of products from other countries that established themselves before us in the international market.

We must be armed with clearer knowledge so that concepts don't get mixed up. Our economic reform program requires us to adopt aspects of a market economy and to liberalize trade. It also requires us to give the private sector a greater chance of being an equal partner in development projects. We must also reorganize the business sector to make it more efficient and productive. This is a difficult and complicated process because there are not enough precedents to give a model or a lesson on how to move from an economy based on state intervention to one that depends on a market mechanism.

I would like to emphasize two basic issues—that of the state's role and that of the business sector's future. With due respect to those who imagine that the state's role will disappear when the economy moves to a market mechanism, I say that the state's role will not disappear. The nature of the role and the mission might change. The state might resort to other tools to control the path of the economy through policies and rules that avoid hegemonic orders and intentions. But the state's role will remain because a market economy does not change completely with one stroke, shifting things suddenly into their new conditions. The change occurs through a series of long-term measures that might take several years so that their effects will be gradual in accordance with each country's economic and social conditions.

The Asian states that achieved great economic growth and huge export potential in the past two decades achieved this dazzling economic progress through the effective presence of the state, which contributed to achieving discipline in work, to concentrating on strategic industries, and to controlling capital influx. These states did not realize their great achievement by adhering to a limited formula of democracy or by adhering to an absolutely liberal course of the laws of a free economy. They made their achievement through the state's effective role of mobilizing manpower and natural resources to serve development and progress. This required the greatest discipline in society's movement and individual behavior to achieve the aims of economic growth. This does not mean we should hesitate in the inevitable gradual change to a market economy or adhere to the state's role as it was. This is no longer possible or viable, and it conflicts with the philosophy and mechanism of the age.

Just as there are those who wrongly imagine that the state's role will disappear with the switch to a market economy, there are those who wrongly imagine that the business sector has no place in the new system. We must consider several essential factors as we redefine the business sector's role and gradually transfer some of its activity to the private sector.

We must be careful in selecting the companies and projects offered for sale to ensure that their assets and the selling process are assessed correctly. [applause] We must give priority to expanding these companies' ownership by offering shares to the public and the people working in these companies. [applause] We must make sure this transformation does not hurt the rights of those working in the project, [applause] because our ultimate

goal and duty is to please the workers and secure them against fear and need. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, we have completed the hardest part and provided favorable conditions for a new stage in which we can realize our people's hopes to stabilize prices, record a real increase in individuals' incomes, and achieve a concrete reduction in the unemployed. We must agree on the need to preserve the great achievements of the first phase of the economic reform program so that we can forge ahead with the plan of comprehensive development, a plan based primarily on expanding our agricultural and industrial production bases and investing in them as best we can to make society more capable of fulfilling its sons' needs.

There are basic commitments that require constant efforts so that the plan can produce the fullest results. Foremost among these commitments is to control the budget deficit by balancing the state's annual revenue and expenditure in no more than three years.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, if economic reform and comprehensive development remains the top priority in our program for the coming period, we must pay more attention to developing a comprehensive plan to introduce advanced technology and modern management systems to the various aspects of Egyptian life.

Scientific and technological progress has become a crucial element both to production and to quality services. If we are preparing ourselves to complete three giant agricultural projects to reclaim 1.2 million feddans in the next five years, these areas must form the right approach to developing Egyptian agriculture on the basis of the practical application of science. We must seek to achieve quality and quantity to enable Egyptian products to compete in international markets, especially since we expect a local surplus of particular crops exceeding the needs of the local market.

We in Egypt face another very important problem that requires doubling our efforts to apply modern technology to irrigation and farming. Our water resources are limited; they are subject to international agreements, which we are always careful to respect. This expected scarcity of water resources makes it inevitable for us to launch a national program to use modern technology to manage water resources, rationalize water consumption, and use recycled drainage water.

In industry, as in agriculture, there is no alternative to upgrading quality while cutting costs to help our products find their way into foreign markets and to withstand foreign competition.

Charting a national plan to introduce advanced technology does not mean we will be content to import it. We must be able to start and promote our own technology through new policies that achieve the maximum investment in research centers and in the available potential at universities, research institutes, and the huge industrial establishments so that we might invent and promote technological systems appropriate to our needs and our economic and social circumstances. There are two basic points that constitute a sound yardstick for the technological systems that we must choose to suit our circumstances:

1. We must focus on the technology that will enable us to achieve increased rates of production without decreasing job opportunities, because creating new job opportunities is a primary goal of our economic reform program.

2. We stress that it is unnecessary to seek the very costly technology that is applied in the most advanced industrial countries. We must be content to assimilate the technological systems used in other, less advanced, countries that achieved high rates of production in the past decade, notably in Asia.

I believe the task is extremely delicate and important, because unless we choose technological systems that we can sow on our soil and promote through our intrinsic potential, we will continue to rely on others. This is why I call on all those interested in technological change—scientists and experts in agriculture, industry, and services—to discuss this important issue in preparation for a comprehensive plan to achieve the goals I have mentioned.

Since the primary goal of our program is to complete the economic reform process and achieve continuing comprehensive development to increase individuals' income and turn Egypt into a middle-income country and enhance society's ability to fulfill the requirements of the people, security and stability are the primary—the sole—guarantee for achieving this goal. So, we must place stability and security at the top of our national priorities. No one can deny that we cannot achieve progress or even preserve our achievements and successes achieved through our people's sweat and sacrifice unless we are eager to maintain the homeland's security and stability. We must give this issue the attention it deserves and shoulder our share of its burdens and responsibilities, because security concerns everyone. Without security, hopes of progress disappear, motives for progress decline, and no one will be sure about his future. The homeland's very existence will be in danger. As I have often said, without security there can be no investment, development, or new job opportunities to fulfill the needs of the millions of Egyptian toilers. Without stability, the bonds of society disintegrate, its national fabric is torn apart, and its unity vanishes. So, security constitutes a central national issue, the responsibility for which must be shouldered by every citizen as well as by the political establishments and organizations, trade unions, and vocational and popular groupings. No state, no matter what its resources, can shoulder this burden alone, without the enlightened participation of its citizens.

Brothers and sisters, God willing, Egypt will remain a strong fortress, precious and impregnable, which no envious plotter or rancor can harm. It will remain proud and strong, its internal and external security defended by faithful sons who offer precious sacrifices to keep Egypt forever an oasis of security and tranquility.

Greetings from us all to our Egyptian Armed Forces, [applause] which defend Egypt's security, repulse outside aggression and ambitions, and offer an example in sacrifice and self-denial. Greetings to their great role in war and peace, in safeguarding the country's deterrent power to maintain its ability to defend its just peace, and in shouldering special responsibility in this important area for defending Egypt's security and strengthening its pan-Arab role.

The country's need to develop its forces during the transitional period ahead of comprehensive peace in this area is no less than it was during the great historic crossing in those blessed days of October 1973. The new crossing we are facing constitutes a difficult process with numerous challenges. It requires the utmost alertness by the Egyptian people, because we live in an area facing sudden and numerous changes and developments that affect security and stability and because our pan-Arab role in this sensitive area falls within our supreme national interests.

If we move on to issues of internal security, we will find that awareness of the importance of maintaining security and order in Egypt has doubled recently. The people have begun taking the initiative in defending and safeguarding national security. This position is not surprising for a people with such origins and history. We have succeeded to a large extent in confronting the wicked attempts by some to disturb the homeland's security and terrify its citizens. We have been able to achieve this with a minimum of losses and without infringing on the supremacy of the law or departing from the sound democratic course.

We bow our heads out of respect for this great people who have realized the nature of the danger and the gravity of the challenge and moved from the position of rejecting terrorism to positive participation in resisting it. They turned their battle against terrorism into a unique political and moral confrontation. In doing so, they have given a lesson and an example to some party, political, and union forces to become active in public service and undertake their national duty. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, the Egyptian police's performance during this trying time [applause] remains most splendid, reaching the highest heights in the awareness of responsibility, devotion to duty, and dedicated heroism. It was a hard test for these heroic men, but they risked their lives, entering the confrontation with all the strength and power they possess. Greetings to the police [applause] as they wage the battle of honor and duty to defend the security of every citizen. We hail their pious martyrs who fell to redeem their country and add a glowing page to the record of sacrifice and devotion. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters, I will submit to you several important and focal issues on which we must concentrate our efforts to ensure that the results of the comprehensive and continuous development process are balanced. This process must achieve progress for every group in society, especially those groups with a low income. It must also open the doors of hope for Egyptian youths who are frustrated by the increasing problems of unemployment.

1. We should pay the greatest attention to the social aspect of development. In the early stages of economic reform we concentrated on reforming the economic structures of the various institutions. All society's groups, including the low-income groups, shouldered burdens that depleted their resources, despite our concern that the high-income groups should shoulder the greater burden. I repeat, brothers and sisters, that were it possible, we would not have accepted the toiling groups shouldering any burden. God knows how much pain their suffering causes us, how much we sympathize with their hopes and dreams, and how much we struggle to ease their burdens and problems. In light of the multiplicity of views and ideas on the best way to achieve social justice under the economic conditions and circumstances created by economic reform, it might be necessary to hold a plenary conference to discuss this issue and propose several alternatives for dealing with it. All the political forces, the government, the concerned civilian establishments, the specialized committee of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, the universities, and the scientific research centers must participate in this conference. We hope it can be held in a national spirit away from party or ideological fanaticism.

2. We should find decisive solutions for the problem of unemployment, especially among youths. We do not accept that their energy is wasted while they have the most to offer, while they dream of a better future for themselves and for their homeland. Although national interest bars the state from solving this problem by returning to the old policies of finding government jobs for these youths, the state is responsible for ensuring that its policies and laws have an overall conception of how to deal with this problem within five years. The social fund, set up to face this problem, must give accurate statistics at the end of next year of how many jobs it has created, youth projects it has financed, and the extent to which it has reduced unemployment.

3. We should pay more attention to the population problem, which must be a top priority for the government, its planning departments, the local government institutions, and the popular action departments. The studies prepared by our scientists and experts stress that we face three basic challenges in terms of the population, which we must confront efficiently and decisively. The first challenge is a population growth at rates that are still considered too high. Despite our organized effort, which has reduced the population growth rate by 2.18 percent during the past five years, much remains to be done.

The second challenge facing us is the population density on a limited area that is not even six per cent of Egypt. Although we have invested almost 4 billion Egyptian pounds in building new towns and urban centers that have absorbed 1 million citizens, this immense effort

must be doubled within the framework of a comprehensive program that ensures urban centers are set up in new areas, where they can attract people and reduce the frightening population burden on cities and villages. We find here that we need university lecturers and experts to participate in a constructive dialogue on the economies of building in new centers and on the policies that will attract more people than before. Specifically, I propose the idea of allowing any Egyptian investor—and this will need legislation if you agree to the proposal—who intends to set up a project with a capital of no more than 5 million pounds to let him start to implement it and to simply inform the General Investment Authority about it, [applause] on the condition that the project is set up in the new urban centers, industrial areas, and remote regions, not on agricultural land. This is needed especially in the south of the valley, which badly needs job opportunities to absorb the immense potential of the young. [applause] By this, I mean anyone who wants to start a project costing from one pound to 5 million pounds and who chooses land outside the agricultural areas should start the project immediately without going through the usual procedures and without first obtaining government approval. He should inform the General Investment Authority so that he can benefit from the exemptions stipulated in the law. [applause]

The third challenge facing us in terms of the population is to develop the slum areas and make them recognized population centers after giving them the appropriate services that preserve the citizen's humanity and dignity and provide him with his basic needs. [murmurs of approval in the background] But this will need billions. Be patient. [laughter]

We should raise the standard of education and culture. [applause] I have already mentioned and I reiterate before you today that we regard this objective as our major national project. Egypt's future depends on it. The country's ability to raise the standard of living of all its sons is linked with it, because good education means increasing our ability to compete creatively with other people in the quality of products and level of services. Briefly, it is the road to a secure and happy future.

As you know, an integrated plan has been drawn up to reform education, starting with the school, the teacher, and the curricula. This is in addition to the development of technical education. To understand the immensity and significance of this reform process, it is enough to say that the new plan aims to build 7,500 new schools in the next five years—1,500 schools a year. We achieved this rate in the first year.

Educational reform cannot be completed without a comprehensive cultural and artistic revival, because culture and the arts are the criteria for measuring peoples' progress and the first guarantee of the success of the scientific and technological renaissance and its exploitation to serve humanity. We should not forget in achieving this renaissance that culture is the solid foundation on which Egypt's Arab and Islamic role and the ammunition the nation relies on to confront recurring challenges is based. No nation can keep up with progress without supremacy of reason and intellect.

We should improve the health service countrywide by increasing the supply of potable water, boosting preventive health care, expanding the medical insurance umbrella to include the largest population base, and paying more attention to children's medical care and services, especially in the countryside and low-income areas.

We should fight red tape and bureaucracy [applause] and pay more attention to the performance of local government systems in the remote governorates and low-income areas. I have repeatedly discussed the importance of eliminating red tape and bureaucracy and of the need to reduce the various steps so that the ordinary defenseless citizen can obtain his rights and the services he requires from the official departments and establishments without hardship or suffering.

So, radical administrative reform is one of the tools we are using to combat corruption. [applause] This is an important issue that will always remain one of the bases for the legitimacy of ruling. Although corruption is an international phenomenon, not limited to Egypt or any other country, it does not find us lenient in combating and uprooting it or make us lax toward those involved it and the elements that practice it. The government must double its efforts to confront corruption decisively and on every level.

No one can deny the state pursues corruption and the corrupt. It has followed every case and held exhaustive investigations and interrogations under the stringent control of the judicial authority.

We should prepare for the new generations of Egypt's sons to assume the greatest responsibility. [applause] This is an important issue, which I thought to raise at the start of my third term in office. Since we are devoting our thinking and action to formulating a pragmatic, scientific concept for Egypt and for its role in the 21st century, it becomes logical for us to exert our utmost efforts to rejuvenate Egypt's establishments, especially those that play a direct role in government affairs. The real, the true image of the new Egypt will be painted only by the future generations, which will reflect the future in their concepts, ideas, thinking, values, dreams, and their experiences. They do this in a changing world that is very different from the one known to the generations growing up during World War II and during the era of bipolarity and different from the frenzied sectarian and ideological conflict between Capitalism and Socialism. [applause]

This is a very great responsibility involving all the various government organs, the political parties, the research centers, and the establishments concerned with culture and information. The only way to face this responsibility is to let successive generations take it up and open the door for every citizen who comes forward

to shoulder his role under the burden of national action on condition that he can prove himself and his qualifications objectively.

Dear brothers and sisters, the world has witnessed exciting, fundamental changes in recent years. These changes must leave their mark on the international community over the coming decades. Many intellectuals have said that a new world order has developed on the ruins of the old one, which has controlled the world since the end of World War II. That old order was characterized by bipolarity and the growing risk of a destructive nuclear confrontation that could have lowered the curtain on modern civilization.

What interests us most in that new world order, with all its positive and negative aspects, is the emergence of economic power as a central factor in a state's influence with other countries. Economic power has taken over from all other kinds of power. This is in line with our definition of national goals and actions and our focus on economic reform as a springboard toward the 21st century.

We are also interested in the growing tendency to establish economic blocs in the east and west. This is clear in the establishment of a free-trade zone in North America and Europe, which is expected to embrace the members of the European Common Market; the European Free Trade Association; and advanced industrialized states in the Far East, including the People's Republic of China, which is making giant strides toward development and economic progress. Although these states have not as yet joined an official, legal group, they maintain coordination and cooperation and their investments are largely linked.

The significance of these economic groups becomes clear when we learn that they monopolize about 75 percent of the gross international product and control about 90 percent of world trade. This fact will certainly reflect on the balance of power in the new world order. We have to take this fact into consideration when we develop the strategy that defines our policy and guides our movement in the remaining part of the 20th century.

In addition to this, brothers and sisters, our commitment to world peace further deepens, not only as a moral and principled choice by holy religions, but basically as a means to achieving the stability and development that enable the people to counter the serious challenges standing in their way or restricting their freedom.

Hence, we find it our duty to deal with these new conditions in a constructive and positive spirit. We should not be content with analyzing them or making judgments on their lawfulness or compliance with rights and justice. We should take the initiative to contribute to developing these conditions and adjusting them to our vision and interests. Only in this way can we contribute to shaping the new world order and determining the rules and values that govern its movement.

We in Egypt have the potential and resources to enable us to play an effective role, particularly because we are not working alone but are operating within Arab, Islamic, and African spheres and with the Nonaligned Movement countries and the Third World. In the Arab sphere, we find that our manpower, natural resources, and civilization qualify us for a considerable role in steering this important historic development. It is wrong to say that we have no say in current developments or that there is no room for contributing to defining their shape and substance. I believe that our ability to play this role will strengthen and double if we pursue a course based on the following four pillars:

1. Strict commitment to settling disputes among Arab countries amicably, free from the use of force or threats to use force.
2. Spotlighting the Arab commitment to peace, both in our region and in the world at large.
3. Working out a practical and realistic formula for joint Arab action, a formula that does not ignore the reality of common Arab interests and futures and takes account of the new developments and changes that have occurred in recent decades. Thus, our cherished goal, at least in the current stage of our history, will be to achieve the maximum level of Arab solidarity and agreement on carefully planned mechanisms for coordination among the Arab countries on the various positions affecting pan-Arab interests.
4. Serious action to gradually establish an economic bloc that does not conflict with the interests of any Arab country. The goal is to add to the assets of every Arab country and individual. The bloc we refer to should be based on intertwined interests and interrelated activities among countries, establishments, and individuals.

With this new concept we will be able to take calculated steps toward dealing with new realities, including the relaxation following the recent developments in the peace process in the Middle East. We welcome these developments and hope they will benefit all the region's peoples, above all the fraternal Palestinian people. The Palestinian people waged a glorious epic of struggle; and their leadership, represented by president Yasir 'Arafat and his fellows, shouldered the responsibility and did their duty with honor and courage.

We hope that the agreement that was signed in Washington on 13 September will be implemented so that the wheel of reconciliation and transfer of power will continue to roll. It is necessary for all parties to realize the importance of achieving progress on the other tracks without exception, foremost of which is the Syrian track. We believe that the circumstances are favorable and the ground is prepared for making tangible progress in view of the intensive and continuing contacts that we have held and are holding with U.S. President Clinton, other U.S. Administration officials and Congress, and with the leaders of the effected European countries in pushing the peace process forward. All these contacts and meetings take place within the framework of constant coordination and consultation with brother President Hafiz al-Asad, our partner and comrade in war and peace, and with our Palestinian brothers and other Arab Leaders,

and with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who has demonstrated a solid commitment to peace and the historic reconciliation.

By achieving this hoped-for progress on the Syrian front, the possibilities for relaxation on the Jordanian and Lebanese fronts will be consolidated. Thus, the links of peace will be joined into a single chain.

After Israel and all its Arab neighbors sign peace agreements, the state of war will end, the boycott will be terminated, hostility and tension will be eliminated, stability will prevail, and a new stage of coexistence and creative cooperation will begin. All this will be within a framework that takes account of common interests and inflicts no harm on any one party.

If we look at African developments, we will notice positive phenomena, mainly in the southern regions of the continent. The democratic transformation process is following its charted course [in South Africa], particularly after promulgation of the law on setting up the executive transitional council. We trust that all parties representing the majority there will reach an agreement and stand in one rank, so that they can reap the fruits of liberation and salvation.

On the other hand, the African summit held in Cairo last June issued a resolution to develop a mechanism to prevent the eruption of inter-African disputes and to settle them peacefully. This is a significant accomplishment that will reflect positively on life on the African continent in the years to come.

Coming to the negative aspects, we will notice the persistence of the problem of indebtedness, which weighs heavily on many fraternal African states. The debts total 108 percent of the annual Gross National Product in many of these states. This is painful.

However, the most serious problem facing the continent at present is the eruption of bloody armed conflicts among the sons of the same states, particularly in Somalia, Angola, and Burundi, in addition to less severe and violent conflicts in Liberia, Rwanda, and Mozambique. This problem jeopardizes peace and stability on the continent and destroys the social peace in states that now more than ever need to mobilize all their resources for the struggles for development and construction.

The Egyptian stand on these issues is based on established principles. The primary principle is that the sons of each African state are the only ones entitled to make the decision of how to get out of the predicament and move toward national accord. Therefore, we support no group against the other and take no sides because they are all brothers who share the same interests and destiny.

Within this vision, the OAU can play the role of the honest mediator who is capable of seeking the well-being of all the warring parties and of taking part in the peace process. Hence, the role of the international community can be restricted to the extension of humanitarian aid and financing UN-sponsored activities.

In the wider circle of the nonaligned movement and the Third World group, we believe that these states must double their efforts and coordinate them in order to emerge of the impasse of foreign debts, amounting to $1.4 trillion. A total of 780 million people in those countries are suffering from hunger or food deficiency. This makes it incumbent on all these states to steer their efforts and resources toward tackling the economic problems and toward the challenge of comprehensive development. The states of this group can only reach this goal by paying more attention to cooperation among themselves. This requires the activation of a South-South dialogue. The mini-summit of the Third world's major states, to be held in Delhi on 13 December, hopefully will result in concrete steps in that direction so that the states of the South can be in a position to forge ahead more effectively in their dialogue with the North and obtain more favorable terms in their foreign trade and their dealings with the advanced industrialist states. In short, the challenge lies in these states' ability to survive in the future world arena.

Brothers and sisters, I have spoken at length, but this is dictated by our joint responsibility for our beloved country's future. Our country needs the efforts of all its people so that it can approach the 21st century strong and proud and able to compete in the contest for progress. Our joint responsibility is to best identify our national priorities in a broad dialogue that seeks the nation's higher interests, rises above selfishness, and makes maintaining the country's cohesion and unity a top priority. There is no use in a dialogue that ignores the requirements of reality or the people's demands or confines its task to appeasing a limited number of the elite or whose eventual outcome is to divide the national fold.

Our joint responsibility is to rally every effort for our correct priorities in a mature national commitment that allows the integration of every role no matter how much they disagree or how diverse they are.

The homeland needs everyone's efforts and progress needs integration, solidarity, cooperation, and joint coordination, not infighting, selfishness, and division. I look forward to a new phase of more mature and rich national action in which roles are shared and integrated in the context of a sound vision that reflects our national consensus on our higher interests and turns our joint action into a collective effort with the participation of individuals and groups, government and opposition, and public and government institutions.

My hand is stretched out to every Egyptian hand. It calls on everyone to participate and opens the door wide to every sincere national endeavor. I am not concerned about varying views or stances, because the nation prospers by the efforts of all its citizens who exert various efforts. Their aim is one—a commitment to

duty, giving precedence to the national interest and respect for legitimacy and law.

Brothers, my hand is also extended to every Egyptian hand that builds and reconstructs, sows what is good, spreads reconciliation, protects Egypt's national consensus, and lights the candles of brightness and light for its future generations. My hand is extended to every Egyptian hand that seeks reform through wise propagation, model practice, respect for the rule of law, and through sincerity of word emanating from a national conscience that rejects injustice and lies.

Since my first term in office, I have pledged to be a president for all Egyptians, [applause] and not to distinguish between a supporter and an opponent, because I regard everyone as a nationalist Egyptian, no matter how diverse the interpretations. Today, I pledge to do my utmost to create a national consensus that excludes no one, but the evil advocates of destruction who no longer want good and progress for this nation. We will not close the door in the face of those who wish to return to the correct path and will not block the opportunity for those who clean their eyes to see the truth free of false perversion.

But we will not tolerate those whose souls are dominated by evil and who have embarked on subverting the country's efforts and on blocking its progress.

Grudges never built a homeland. Grudges poison souls, corrupt people, distort vision, and give rise to squabbles and quarrels. Our primary obligation is to protect our national unity from the elements of destruction, division, and infighting.

Brothers and sisters, we have before us the huge difficult task of taking Egypt into the 21st century after it has completed its economic and political reform and rehabilitated its capabilities in a way that enables us to confront the challenges ahead. This is a responsibility that no ruler can shoulder alone, no matter how sincere his intentions. It is the responsibility of a nation that must sense its duty toward the challenges of a new age in which there is no place for those who lag in the march of progress. It is my responsibility to be sincere with myself and the people. I support the national interest. I caution and warn against error. I protect the purity of government and I safeguard the interest of national action. I open the road to new generations to enrich the march of Egyptian progress. I support the values of this great people, who urge justice, cooperation, and respect for human rights. This is my responsibility before God and the homeland. I will not shirk from it, because my ultimate aim is to preserve the confidence of this loyal people. I want to be a good citizen doing his duty with a national conscience and safeguarding the rights of others.

Our joint responsibility is much bigger than this. We must be aware of the challenges facing us in an age that requires knowledge, serious work, good performance, perfection, and team effort. We must realize that the fate of each one of us is linked with the fate of others. The progress of each citizen is linked with the progress of the whole nation. We must all safeguard the national interest in the street, factory, school, and hospital. Egypt's interest lies in the Egyptian people's interest. Our joint responsibility is to make progress. Progress and prosperity do not come as gifts. They do not rain down on us unexpectedly. Progress is the fruit of the effort of a nation that feels it has a right to a better future, a nation that uses its resources well in the march of serious and constant work that benefits us all.

We have a right to a better future. We possess a clear program with clear priorities. It seeks the welfare of the whole nation, not the welfare of a particular class or group. We possess a strong base, which took us 12 years to build. We have a history and a civilization, so it is our task to progress and participate in building that civilization.

With the beginning of my new presidential term, I look forward to a new atmosphere full of increasing confidence in the homeland's ability to transcend its difficulties. We have transcended difficulties and problems and safely reached the start of a wide, paved road. We have achieved much, but we will achieve much more. We want a homeland capable of fulfilling the demands of its sons. We want a dear homeland that safeguards its role and position. We want a cohesive homeland that protects its unity. I look forward to the effort of every scientist, thinker, writer, artist, and intellectual to become a guardian of the ideals of this people and to participate with us in painting a bright picture for a prosperous Egypt. I look forward to the effort of every worker to realize that perfection and good quality constitute a noble national demand. I look forward to the effort of the rich and those who hold savings to participate more in development projects. I look to the effort of every Egyptian so that the new presidential term will represent a new crossing for Egypt.

I sincerely look to God so that it will be a period of prosperity in which he will give his protection with his generosity and blessings. He is the best savior and custodian. Peace be with you.

Libya

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Jovanovic Arrives

LD1411181593 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1745 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Nov (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic arrived in Tripoli today for an official visit to Libya. He was welcomed in Tripoli by his host, Libyan Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Umar al-Muntasir.

In the course of their first preliminary meeting ahead of the beginning of official talks which are to start tomorrow, the two sides held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the relations between the two countries, which

are bonded by traditional friendship, on the possibilities for future cooperation, and on their current international position.

Meets Foreign Secretary

LD1511142093 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation held a meeting in Tripoli this morning with Vladislav Jovanovic, the foreign minister of the new Yugoslavia—which includes Serbia and Montenegro—and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the Yugoslav minister praised the efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in what used to be called Yugoslavia. He expressed new Yugoslavia's condemnation of the stepping up of the unjust coercive measures against the great Jamahiriyah through the false resolution imposed by the three Western countries at the UN Security Council. He also praised the bilateral relations between the great Jamahiriyah and new Yugoslavia, stressing the need for supporting and bolstering them in a way that would serve the two countries' mutual interests.

The bases for strengthening bilateral relations in various fields were discussed and studied during the meeting. Many international and regional issues of mutual concern were also discussed during the meeting.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Libyan-Arab bureau in Yugoslavia and the ambassador of new Yugoslavia in the great Jamahiriyah.

Discusses Sanctions

LD1511162093 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1429 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Nov (TANJUG)—FRY Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic and Libyan Foreign Minister 'Umar al-Muntasir expressed concern today, at the beginning of the official Yugoslav-Libyan talks, over increasing use of certain states' economic and military power in influencing other states' activities and policies, and stressed that this threatened the latter's independence to a significant extent.

During the talks, which are under way in the atmosphere of closeness and friendship, the two foreign ministers emphasized that the Mediterranean region in particular, where both countries are situated, is to an increasing extent becoming a sphere of unilateral influence of foreign circles.

During the exchange of opinions on the international position and activities of the two countries, both under the UN Security Council sanctions, Jovanovic and Muntasir said that sanctions are an unacceptable way of communicating with international subjects, contrary to the proclaimed principles of the new international order. Jovanovic briefed his host on the latest activities on the resolution of the Yugoslav crisis, particularly in the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Yugoslavia has great appreciation for Libya's friendly and constructive stance and activities for the peaceful resolution of the issue.

Ministers Jovanovic and Muntasir devoted particular attention to the mutual relations between Yugoslavia and Libya and expressed readiness to continue such relations and cooperation, particularly in the economic field, in the current conditions, burdened with difficulties for both countries. Possibilities of resolving certain problems in the economic area were examined in an open and constructive way.

Received by al-Qadhdhafi

LD1611090493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0715 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today received Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic who is on an official visit to Libya.

During their talks, the value of many years of friendship and mutual trust between the two countries was reaffirmed, it has been learned. This provides foundations for strengthening and further expanding mutual cooperation, in which both sides are showing identical interest.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi showed full understanding for the difficulties Yugoslavia is experiencing due to the international sanctions. In this respect, he expressed Libya's readiness to soon resolve some problems in the area of economic cooperation, despite the difficulties that Libya itself faces due to the sanctions imposed on it and recently stepped up by the UN Security Council resolution.

Minister Jovanovic informed the Libyan leader about the latest developments and activities toward resolving the Yugoslav crisis, particularly the conflict in Bosnia, and expressed Yugoslavia's highest appreciation for the friendly, objective, and constructive standpoint which Libya and Al-Qadhdhafi have personally shown from the outset and particularly for the activities undertaken by Libya for a peaceful and just resolution of the Yugoslav crisis.

During the talks, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi reiterated that cooperation and furthering friendly relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are of long-term and strategic interest for Libya.

They exchanged particularly meaningful views on the most topical international developments, on the situation in the Mediterranean region, and on the nonaligned countries' activities.

Minister Jovanovic continues his visit to Libya with meetings with ministers from economic departments.

Delivers Message of Thanks

LD1611101293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 16 Nov, JANA—Al-Qadhdhafi, the brother leader of the revolution received Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic, who delivered a message from the Yugoslav Government in which it expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the efforts exerted by the brother leader of the revolution to put an end to the conflict raging in the former Yugoslavia and to spread peace there. The message also conveyed the appreciation of the Yugoslav Government and people to the Great Jamahiriyah for sending an envoy from the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation to follow up the implementation of the initiative in this respect. [passage omitted]

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Condemns Latest UN Resolution

LD1311153193 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 13, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Libyan newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH asserted in an editorial yesterday that the policy of pressure and threats followed for a month by the colonialist states against the Security Council members led to the voting by the Council on Thursday [11 November] for a resolution imposed on these countries despite the efforts exerted by the Great Jamahiriyah to put the Lockerbie issue within its correct framework in conformity with the rules of international law. It stressed that the credibility of this law collapsed when the Security Council passed this unfair resolution.

The paper pointed out that the Security Council refused to listen to the opinion of the countries of the world who announced their stance towards this issue through the governments and international and regional organizations expressing support for the Great Jamahiriyah in the way she dealt with the crisis between herself and the West and solidarity with her calling for the lifting of the coercive measures imposed by the invalid Resolution 748.

The paper added that the U.N. itself became merely a united nations of America and all acts taking place within its corridors show that the resolution which the organization passed on Thursday through its Security Council stands witness to that for its violation of the collective international will and the world unanimity on its illegality, lacking to any credibility and the condemnation of its coercive measures by all international organizations.

The paper asked "is it possible to consider the vote which took place on Thursday night at the Security Council for a further unfair action against the people of the Great Jamahiriyah an international resolution after it was imposed by an American will.

The paper stressed that the unfair new resolution showed clearly to the world the true aim of this resolution which is the domination of the Security Council by the major countries subjecting it to their own will and turning it into an instrument to wage war against peoples imposing on them embargo and starvation and hindering their developmental progress.

The paper concluded its editorial by saying that the people of Jamahiriyah who have never capitulated in their history to tyrants look today with regret at the level reached by events and developments at the end of this century including tightening colonialist country's domination and entrenching it. While taking this view and continuing their steadfastness, the people of Jamahiriyah reconsider their relations and alliances and will continue to look with high esteem at all the countries and organizations stood in support and solidarity with them against the enemy of all mankind and the Libyan Arab people encountering this spiteful colonialism have no option but to rely on themselves, move forward and accomplish all the objectives, principles and values heralded by the great al-Fatah revolution.

JANA Editor Criticizes U.S. Statement on Yemen

LD1211211793 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] A U.S. State Department spokesman has announced that the United States supports Yemen in its measures to implement democracy, adding that the U.S. Government is following the parliamentary and multiparty elections there.

The U.S. spokesman said in a statement yesterday that his government supports the introduction of economic reforms in Yemen which will lead to a free-market system in the country.

The JANA Arab affairs editor has commented by saying: The U.S. official's statement on Yemen constitutes the most hideous intervention by one country into the internal affairs of another. This method of dealing between countries can be added to the wonders of the world.

The editor adds that the U.S. official must know that his statements clash with the interests of the friends of the United States in that region who oppose the unity of Yemen and pluralism. Can the United States hunt two rabbits at the same time?

'Arafat Order To Halt 'Resistance' Questioned

LD1511111993 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Beirut, 15 Nov (JANA)—Zionist officials have announced that the Zionist occupation troops yesterday opened fire and killed a Palestinian national near the town of Tulkarm. This follows 'Arafat's orders to the Fatah movement to stop its acts of resistance against the Zionists, orders that were welcomed by U.S. President

Bill Clinton and the Zionist prime minister. This welcome was reported by Voice of America, the Zionist enemy, and a number of Arab and international news agencies.

JANA's Arab affairs editor commented on this as follows: Yasir 'Arafat's order to stop acts of resistance against the Zionist occupation troops, following the killing of a Zionist settler by the revolutionaries of the generation of anger, is considered to be implementation on his part of the Zionist conditions stipulated in the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement. Thus, 'Arafat establishes the rule that the killing of Zionists is a sin whereas shedding the blood of the Palestinians, who are not regarded as human beings, is allowed, and that Zionists have the right to kill Palestinians safely, with impunity and without any condemnation. In other words the rule will allow the shedding of the blood of those whose land is occupied and will forbid the shedding of the blood of the invaders and the usurpers.

Calls for Dialogue Between FIS, Algeria Viewed

LD1211122893 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0743 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Nov. (JANA)— Former Algerian President Ahmed Ben Bella called for dialogue with the Algerian FIS [Islamic Salvation Front].

He was quoted by AL-KHABAR as saying that dialogue with the front is necessary, and that any dialogue that excludes the FIS leaders was doomed to fail. He added that the crisis in Algeria cannot be solved in any way other than through an effective dialogue with the FIS.

The JANA Arabic affairs editor has commented on this statement as follows: Brother officials in Algeria protested when the brother leader of the revolution addressed the GPC [General People's Congress] during festivities marking the 24th anniversary of the great al-Fatih revolution, and announced his readiness to contact and mediate with the FIS leaders to put an end to the crisis that sisterly Algeria is currently going through. Subsequently, the HSC [Higher State Council] issued a statement in which it considered this announcement as interference in Algeria's internal affairs.

What then will they do with Ahmed Ben Bella and the paper that published his statements in which he called for dialogue with the FIS in Algeria?

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Egyptian Party Leader

LD1611105693 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Nov JANA—The brother leader of the revolution has received Khalid Muhyi al-Din, general secretary of the National Progressive Unionist Party in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Niger Envoy Delivers Message for Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1511205193 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir [member of Libya's Revolution Command Council] received this afternoon Mallam Adam Kandine, the justice minister and personal envoy of Niger President Mahamane Ousmane. The envoy handed Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir a written message for the brother leader of the revolution from President Mahamane Ousmane, who reiterated Niger's solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in confronting the unjust mandatory measures imposed on it. He confirmed Niger's consolidation of bilateral ties with the Great Jamahiriyah.

Libyan-Russian Committee on Economic Cooperation Meets

LD1311180493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 13 Nov [dateline as received] —The joint Libyan Arab-Russian Committee for Economic Cooperation this morning began its meetings to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries in all fields.

These meetings were attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, Oleg Davydov, the Russian minister for foreign economic relations, and a number of advisers and technicians from the Great Jamahiriyah and Russia. [passage omitted]

The secretary said: We are meeting today to build a firm relationship with federal Russia because of our belief that the Russian people have a great history and we are sure that they will build a great state. Our hope is that Russia will play a role in protecting small peoples from oppression and hegemony.

He added that there was no doubt that one of the foundations on which a future relationship could be built was joint cooperation and investment and that the chances of success in this field were very good. [passage omitted] Davydov stressed the desire of the Russian people to promote cooperation and bolster friendship with the Great Jamahiriyah in all fields.

Subcommittees Discuss Issues

LD1411151493 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Meetings between the three subcommittees of the Joint Libyan Arab-Russian Committee for Economic Cooperation continued this morning in Tripoli. These three subcommittees are the Investment committee, the Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee, and the Financial Affairs Committee.

During the meetings a number of issues were discussed, including the participation of the Libyan Arab Company

for Foreign Investments in setting up joint companies and various projects in both countries.

The three committees also drew up numerous agreements in the spheres of economic, scientific and technical cooperation, and trade exchange between the two countries.

Energy Secretary, Russian Minister Meet

LD1511154893 Tripoli JANA in English 1414 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli (al Harth 15) [15 Nov] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General Peoples Committee for Energy met this morning Davydov, the Russian minister of foreign economic relations who is currently visiting the great Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the joint Libyan Arab-Russian committee.

During this meeting the two sides discussed economic relations between the two countries and the best way to improve and strengthen to serve the joint interests of both countries.

Tunisia

Opposition Party Nominates Ben Ali for Presidency

LD1411211593 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] A statement issued by the National Union of Democratic Unionists, after its first meeting, said that the party's political bureau decided to nominate President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to be the party's candidate for the presidency at the upcoming presidential elections, because President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is the president of all Tunisians.

Indonesian President Suharto Arrives

Greeted by Ben Ali

BK1511124193 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Maltese President Censu Tabone saw President Suharto off at the airport today. President Suharto and his entourage arrived in Tunisia several hours later. Tunisian President and Mrs. Ben Ali were themselves on hand to greet Mr. Suharto and his entourage at Tunis International Airport. [passage omitted]

Suharto, Ben Ali Hold Talks

LD1511181993 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held talks at Carthage Palace this afternoon with Indonesian President Suharto, who is paying a 3-day state visit to our country at the invitation of the head of state.

The presidency's official spokesman said the two heads of state reviewed the fraternal relations between the two countries and the prospects of strengthening bilateral cooperation by intensifying trade and economic exchanges.

The official spokesman added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali briefed his guest on the reforms currently under way in Tunisia in the political, economic, and social spheres. He pointed out that Tunisia, which had since the change affirmed the consolidation of its Islamic affiliation, was attempting to achieve a qualitative leap in its relations with Islamic countries, particularly Indonesia, which is connected to our country by the deep-rooted links of religion and civilization and by uniform stances on foreign policy, which are based on clarity and moderation.

Suharto Hails PLO-Israeli 'Breakthrough'

BK1611031093 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Indonesia has welcomed the positive and courageous breakthrough by PLO and Isreal to end their long-drawn and strained relations that have lasted almost half a century. This was stated by President Suharto at the state banquet hosted in his honor by Tunisian President Ben Ali in Tunis last night.

Indonesia hopes that the early step taken by PLO will pave the way toward the creation of an independent and sovereign Palestine.

South African Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1511144093 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Mr Pik Botha, South African foreign minister, arrived this evening in Tunis on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his counterpart Mr. Habib Ben Yahia.

In a statement he gave in the VIP lounge at Tunisia's Carthage international airport, Pik Botha expressed his happiness at visiting Tunisia, a country which is well-known for its firmly established history over which many civilizations succeeded one another. He said that Tunisia appears before the world as an excellenct example of stability, moderation, and economic growth, the spheres on which the future depends, and not on ideologies and narrow-mindedness.

The South African foreign minister added by saying that we could also benefit from the way Tunisia supports its international relations, pointing out that Tunisia has become a respectable country occupying a position that allows it to achieve more progress and economic growth.

In reply to a question on the prospects of available cooperation relations between the two countries, Botha, who is visiting Tunisia for the first time, said it is possible to establish close cooperation between Tunisia and the Republic of South Africa in a number of spheres, such as trade exchange, technology, and industry.

Gulf Ministers Agree To Boost 'Peninsula Shield'

PM1211121893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Nov 93 p 4

['Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sadiqi and Taj-al-Din 'Abd-al-Haqq report: "Gulf Defense Ministers Conclude Their Meetings; Development of 'Peninsula Shield;' Establishment of Early Warning Network"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi— Defense ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states reached a compromise between the proposal calling for setting up a unified Gulf army and the view of those who believe thorough consideration should be applied in this connection, endorsing at the end of their meetings in Abu Dhabi yesterday a recommendation urging the GCC states to "reinforce military units in their own armies so as they can join the Arab Peninsula Shield forces at the time of necessity."

Sources at the meeting told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that military liaison committees will be set up in every GCC state to arrange joint exercises and maneuvers. This is in addition to standardizing the military terminology used in the armies of the member states and coordination in the area of military and defense procurement.

The sources said that it was decided in principle to endorse the chiefs of staff's recommendation concerning the establishment of a Gulf early warning network consisting of fixed and mobile radar units to cover all the region's states and the member states' territorial waters.

According to sources at the meeting, the GCC defense ministers' agreement now requires the endorsement of the GCC Supreme Council comprised of leaders of the six member states, who are scheduled to meet in Riyadh on 20 December.

The sources pointed out that "the agreed joint Gulf warning network will not lead to a radical change in what already exists in the member states. This network will be tantamount to a coalition between the radar networks currently owned by the Gulf states and what they plan to acquire in future, provided a mechanism is drawn up to guarantee a speedy flow and exchange of information among the armed forces of the member states."

Commenting on the meeting's results, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said that the ministers "endorsed the recommendations submitted by the chiefs of staff as regards beginning to implement the early air warning system."

He added that "the location of the command of this system and the surveillance center will be determined when implementation of the project begins."

The Kuwaiti minister said that the participants endorsed the principle of developing the Peninsula Shield forces to form the nucleus of a joint Gulf army capable of protecting the region's security and stability and deter any dangers threatening it.

He explained the mechanism through which the Peninsula Shield forces are reinforced. He said that it had been agreed "that each GCC state will reinforce units from among its army in order to join the Peninsula Shield forces."

He also said that "the Peninsula Shield command will be assumed by turns among the member states, with the proviso that the headquarters of these forces remains in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a unified general staff is set up, based in Riyadh."

As for Shaykh Major General Muhammad Bin-Zayid, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces, he said: "it was agreed to apply self-reliance among the GCC member states, allocating specific troops from each state to bolster and develop the Peninsula Shield force."

He added: "With regard to financing and armament, each state will contribute a certain proportion in this connection."

As for GCC Secretary General Shaykh Fahim al-Qasimi, he said that the defense ministers endorsed recommendations designed to develop the Peninsula Shield force and make it a "deterrent force possessing an early warning network to guarantee the region's stability and security."

He pointed out that practical steps will be taken in this connection, without specifying the nature of these steps.

GCC Foreign Ministers Gather for Riyadh Meeting

Ministers Arrive 15 Nov

LD1511204393 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Jeddah, Nov 15, SPA—Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, the foreign minister of Bahrain, Rashid al-Na'imi, the foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur, the foreign minister of Qatar, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy premier and foreign minister, and Yusuf Bin-Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs arrived in Riyadh tonight for the 49th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council due to start on Tuesday morning.

They were greeted at King Khalid international airport by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al- Qasimi, the GCC secretary general, Ambassador 'Abd-al-Rahman al- Newaiser, chief of the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry, Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwaiz, assistant GCC secretary general for economic affairs, ambassadors of the GCC member states to the kingdom and senior officials.

Ministers Hold 'Preparatory Session'

LD1611104693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0723 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Nov—Their highnesses and excellencies the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries began the ministerial council's 49th preparatory session at the GCC headquarters in Riyadh this morning. The agenda of the preparatory session includes a review of the GCC's progress and developments in the regional, Arab, and international arenas.

The council will also look into the recommendation submitted by ministerial committees before they are submitted to the next session of the higher council [summit conference].

Kuwait

350 Iraqis Cross Kuwaiti Border, Attack Workers

NC1611125193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Nov (MENA)—About 350 Iraqi troops in civilian clothes and carrying automatic weapons this morning penetrated the Kuwaiti border at the al-Mazari' area near post 95. They were transported by scores of vehicles. A responsible Kuwaiti source said the Iraqi forces attacked people working on the security tunnel in the area. In an exclusive statement to a MENA correspondent in Kuwait, the source added that the Iraqi forces also opened fire at the al-Mazari' police post inside Kuwait. It is not known whether there were casualties on the Kuwaiti or Iraqi sides. The Kuwaiti authorities informed the United Nations and UNIKOM [the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission] about the incident, especially as the Iraqi forces have recently repeatedly violated the Kuwaiti territory.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 1232 GMT on 16 November adds the following: "More than 350 Iraqis burst across the disputed border with Kuwait on Tuesday and ordered workers to stop digging a security trench, Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah said.

["Some of the Iraqis carried firearms and clubs but nobody was hurt in the incident, he said.

["Kuwait has begun a project to fortify the new border approved by the United Nations in May.

[" "Abd-al-Latif Qabbaj, a spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) at the border said he was unaware of Tuesday's incident."]

Amir Accepts Invitation to Visit Iran

LD1511165893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Tehran, 15 Nov—Fahd al-Zufayri, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran, said today that he has handed a reply message from his highness the emir of Kuwait to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which included his highness' acceptance of Rafsanjani's invitation to visit Iran soon.

In a statement to KUNA, al-Zufayri said that he handed the message to Mostafa Fumani-Ha'eri, the director general of the Arabian Gulf department [name and title as received] at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and pointed out that the date of the visit would be set through diplomatic channels in the near future. [passage omitted]

On his part, Fumani-Ha'eri offered his thanks for the emir's response to the Iranian president's invitation. The Iranian official stressed the importance of exchanged visits between the officials of the two neighboring countries for coordination and consultation in order to resolve issues that are pending between the two countries.

In this context, he referred to the visit to be paid soon to Kuwait by Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and that of Major General Yusuf Badr al-Khurafi, Kuwaiti undersecretary of the interior, to Tehran soon with a view to bolstering security coordination and understanding between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Assembly Averts 'Crisis' Over Interior Minister

PM1511124693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p1

[Hamad al-Jasir report: "Kuwaiti National Assembly Averts Serious Crisis With Government"]

[Excerpts] Kuwait—The Kuwaiti National Assembly yesterday averted a serious political crisis with the Kuwaiti executive authority when it decided to drop plans to question Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Sabah and force him to resign. Meanwhile, an official statement said yesterday that Kuwaiti and Iraqi forces exchanged fire yesterday morning when an Iraqi force opened fire on a Kuwaiti observation post east of al-'Abdali. [passage omitted]

The crisis between the National Assembly and the government began when some reports claimed that the government intended to resign and to refer its dispute with the National Assembly to Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Reliable sources told AL-HAYAH that Prime Minister and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah held an unofficial meeting with members of his cabinet Tuesday evening and said that he resented the way the deputies were handling the case of Deputy Ahmad al-Shuray'an, with some of them accusing the government of fabricating a moral scandal by making false allegations against him.

On Tuesday the National Assembly discussed charges made by the Interior Ministry against Deputy al-Shuray'an accusing him of drunkenly assaulting and beating up a policeman last Thursday.

The sources emphasized that Shaykh Sa'd told the ministers at Tuesday's meeting that he intended to submit his resignation to the amir the following Saturday and ask him to resolve the dispute between the government and the National Assembly, in which case the amir would have two options under the Constitution: Form a new government or dissolve the National Assembly and call new legislative elections within two months.

These developments prompted some deputies who are cabinet members to act to stop the escalation. Justice and Administrative Affairs Minister Mishari al-'Anjari met with the National Assembly speaker yesterday morning and told him about the complications.

The deputies then held an eight-hour meeting after which Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun told reporters that the request to question the minister was now frozen and that the deputies were authorizing the minister himself to follow up the case of Deputy al-Shuray'an and that they considered "the case to be closed as far as the Assembly is concerned, leaving the technical aspects of the case to the Kuwaiti judiciary."

Al-Sa'dun did not give any details of moves he intended to make in connection with the al-Shuray'an case or the dispute with the government but sources expect the National Assembly speaker to meet with Amir Shaykh Jabir this morning to contain the dispute.

Al-Sa'dun denied that he had been officially informed of any decision by the government to resign but he said that "if such a resignation was officially made then I would comment and comment harshly."

During Tuesday's session, the Assembly members strongly attacked the interior minister and three of them submitted a request for him to be questioned, but al-Sa'dun said that all that happened in that session "was that some deputies expressed views about questioning and dismissal. They were discussed in the form of letters received by the Assembly, and the issue was closed at the end of the session."

Al-Shu'aybah Oil Refinery To Reopen 17 Nov

LD1611112093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0842 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 16 Nov—A senior Kuwaiti oil official has said that the cost of reconstructing al-Shu'aybah oil refinery, which will be officially opened tomorrow under patronage of Oil Minister 'Ali al-Baghli, had reached about 26 million Kuwaiti dinars, about $80 million. [passage omitted]

In an interview with KUNA [date not given], Khalid Abu Hamrah, a deputy delegate member at the Kuwaiti National Oil Company [KNOC], said that the Iraqi forces had devastated al-Shu'aybah refinery as well as other petroleum installations by destroying a large part of the only crude distillation unit at the refinery. [passage omitted]

Refinery operations will resume tomorrow after a ceremony, which will be attended by the oil minister, senior officials of the Oil Ministry, and Kuwaiti oil companies, as well as other Kuwaiti officials.

In reply to a question on the production capacity of al-Shu'aybah refinery, Abu Hamrah said: The production capacity of this refinery was 90,000 barrels per day [bpd] before the Iraqi invasion. He expects its maximum capacity after repair to be between 130-150,000 bpd. [passage omitted]

Regarding the number of Kuwaitis working at al-Shu'aybah refinery, Abu Hamrah said that the number of workers was currently 1,193, 66.8 percent of whom were Kuwaitis, while the number of workers before the invasion was 1,504, 48.3 percent of whom were Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Vice President's Son Survives Murder Attempt

NC1511120093 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Aden, Yemen, Nov 15 (AFP)—The oldest son of Yemen Vice- President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has survived an assassination attempt, aides to al-Bid said here Monday.

'Adnan al-Bid, head of the Criminal Investigation Department in this southern port city, was at home in the Tuwahi District of Aden on Sunday when Yemeni gunmen opened fire at him with automatic weapons.

The gunmen were detained, the sources said.

It was the second attack on members of the al-Bid family in recent weeks.

Two other sons of al-Bid—Nayif and Yasuf—survived an assassination attempt on October 29 in the Mansurah area near Aden. A nephew of al-Bid died in the attack.

The vice-president has refused to leave Aden for the northern capital Sanaa since August 29, due to a dispute with President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih which has paralyzed Yemeni politics.

Al-Bid is demanding the arrest of those involved in political assassinations and the dismantling of military camps in Yemen's major towns.

Officials of al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party have been the targets of several dozen political assassinations since north and south Yemen were unified in May 1990.

U.S. Official Arrives in Sanaa 15 Nov

JN1511212293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Nov 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Margaret (Dean), chief of the Arabian Peninsula desk at the U.S. State Department, arrived in Sanaa today and began talks with the Yemeni foreign minister on ways to strengthen bilateral relations and the current political crisis in Yemen.

It has been learned that the eldest sons of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid escaped an assassination attempt in Aden last night.

Salih Meeting with Military Commanders Reported

PM1211104993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Haydari and Faysal Makram in Sanaa and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Aden: "'Ali Salih Receives Army Commanders"]

[Excerpts] According to reliable sources in Sanaa, Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih held a meeting the day before yesterday with military commanders and urged the Armed Forces to be "more committed to their historic national role by remaining neutral in any political conflicts or differences and to be committed to the protection of the country's sovereignty, constitutional legitimacy, unity, and democracy."

Meanwhile, Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has stated that the cabinet will meet today in Aden. [passage omitted]

During the meeting with the military commanders, which was not announced, 'Ali Salih, in his capactity as supreme commander of the Armed Forces, instructed the commanders not to accept any military orders whatsoever during this crisis without the approval of the committee, formed under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Brigadier General Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, in charge of watching the military situation and restricting the movements of the Armed Forces to prevent escalation of the crisis.

The same sources said that the military commanders called for a meeting between the Yemeni president and Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid who is keeping himself in seclusion in Aden. 'Ali Salih agreed to such a meeting provided it is held in Ta'izz which is situated between Sanaa and Aden.

The General People's Congress and the Yemeni Reform Grouping have agreed to have a cabinet meeting in Aden today at the request of Prime Minister al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

House Hears Fact-Finding Committee Report

JN1311144693 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The House of Representatives held a session this morning under its Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. During the session, the House listened to a report by the House's fact-finding committee, which is following the current political crisis.

The report outlined the tasks accomplished by the committee during the first stage of its program, relating to the removal of military checkpoints and makeshift points and halting media vituperations and press statements that could further complicate the crisis.

The report noted the positive response and cooperation of all parties with the subcommittees that conducted the field survey to make sure all makeshift and military checkpoints have been removed. The House thanked the committee and its subcommittees for their tremendous efforts to follow up on the House's decisions. The House members stressed the need to pursue the tasks of the first stage of the committee's program, in the security and media fields, so the committee can move on to the next stage to investigate and address the root causes of the crisis.

The House also listened to the justifications of the government's request to give it a new deadline until next Wednesday, 17 November 1993, to come to the House to discuss the crisis.

The House earlier reviewed and endorsed the minutes of its previous session. It will resume its meetings tomorrow morning.

Power-Sharing Formula Advocated for Government

PM1511151693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Nov 93 p1

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden and Hamud Munsir in Sanaa]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Yemeni political sources in Aden yesterday confirmed that Jordanian Chief of the Royal Court al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir arrived in Aden in the morning of the day before yesterday on a secret visit to meet with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Yemeni vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. He delivered to al-Bid an oral message and another written message from King Husayn of Jordan.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Margaret Dean, official in charge of the Arabian Peninsula at the U.S. State Department, will arrive in Sanaa early next week "for a first-hand direct examination of the Yemeni crisis." A State Department official spokesman has reaffirmed his country's support for democracy and unity in Yemen.

There have been conflicting reactions to the press statement issued by the YSP Central Committee at the end of its meeting the day before yesterday. Some people saw it as an "objective portrayal of the facts and an expression of the people's plight in the southern and eastern governorates," and others saw it as an expression of the YSP's suffering in government during the past three and a half years, but General People's Congress [GPC] sources said the statement was "extremely sharp and did not respond to the GPC's initiative calling for a direct and frank dialogue among the leaders of the coalition government."

Observers believe that at the end of the YSP's statement there was a call for a new political agreement in the context of the unity state to produce a formula for power sharing. There are increasing mutual suspicions between the state institutions in the north on the one hand and the YSP on the other. That underlines the need for bridges of confidence among all members of the coalition government.

'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jafri, leader of the Sons of Yemen League, said that the statement was "extremely sharp" and that it "ultimately presents everyone with two options: Complete boycott or serious dialogue." He added that "what distinguishes that statement from other statements is that it said that a dialogue was necessary among all the national opposition bloc, nationalist figures, and coalition parties, and not just the coalition parties." Al-Jafri added that "the current structure on which the unity state was based can no longer manage the country's affairs and there must be a responsible national dialogue to lay the foundations of a stable democratic regime to ensure survival of the united state."

Rogue Politicians Seen Behind Military Movements

PM1611124993 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Yemen: Northern Military Movements on Borders of Southern Governorates"]

[Text] Sanaa, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Corroborated information revealed yesterday that Yemeni military forces from northern units had conducted movements in the "contact areas" near the border between the northern and southern governorates (between the two parts of Yemen before unity). The information said that the forces' deployment had begun from the al-Hamzah camp toward areas in Qa'tabah, "and maybe their armament included tanks and some other types of heavy weapons."

This information emerged while the committee formed by the Council of Ministers at its recent meeting in Aden under Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister, was busy drawing up an initiative to resolve the most serious political crisis Yemen has ever experienced between the two parties which made the unity, namely the General People's Congress, led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the Yemeni Socialist Party, whose secretary general is 'Ali Salim al-Bid, the vice president.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Government yesterday evening issued a statement at the end of its three-day meetings held in Aden under Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, in which it emphasized its serious desire to work to create favorable condition to surmount the political crisis the country is experiencing.

An authoritative Yemeni source—who confirmed this information—believes that these forces may have been deployed without the knowledge of the political leadership in Sanaa. The source expressed his belief that some military leaders—who enjoy the support of politicians to escalate the situation—are behind these movements. And that their aim is to prevent the achievement of a solution to the political crisis the country is experiencing, in order to safeguard personal interests they believe are fundamental and which they do not want to abandon.

The weekly newspaper 26 SEPTEMBER, published by the moral guidance department at the Defense Ministry in Sanaa, denied the reports about military movements the day before yesterday after news agencies had carried reports of the deployment of 10,000 troops in the areas of Ta'izz and Ibb in north Sanaa [as published].

The newspaper quoted a source at the Defense Ministry and the Yemeni Armed Forces General Staff as saying that "these reports are absolutely baseless." The newspaper emphasized that the Armed Forces' men "are applying complete neutrality toward the political conflict among parties, and that they reemphasize their constant eagerness to protect legitimacy and the Yemeni homeland's higher interests, sovereignty, and independence."

While the military source urged local and foreign media services to ensure accuracy and correct information in the reports they publish "in order to spare Yemen anything arousing confusion and instability," it seems that the report of recent movements is corroborated. They are new movements different from those revealed by news agencies three days ago.

Salih, Egypt's Mubarak Confer by Phone 13 Nov

JN1411182993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] A telephone call was held last night between brother General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Republic of Arab Egypt. During the call, the two presidents discussed relations between the two fraternal countries, as well as issues of mutual interest.

U.S. Senator's Comments on Beaty Release Reported

JN1511192793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1905 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] U.S. Senator David Boren has voiced appreciation for the orders of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, to pardon and release the U.S. prisoner Kenneth Beaty.

In a news conference today, Boren said he is pleased with this decision, which, he said, was positive. He added that the decision is yet another significant humanitarian gesture.

He voiced appreciation for the health care prisoner Kenneth Beaty received and the Iraqi authorities' decision to allow a doctor from the United States to visit him.

The U.S. senator said his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz was constructive and positive.

Prisoner David Beaty also voiced appreciation for the good treatment he received while he was in jail. He noted that doctors and prison supervisors did all they could to help him.

'Provocative Reports' by 'U.S. Researcher' Viewed

JN1411105093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0736 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that U.S. researcher Kenneth Timmerman's provocative reports against Iraq clearly reflect the U.S.-Western thinking and motives behind the adoption of stands that are linked to imperialist interests.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that what Timmerman wrote in the WALL STREET JOURNAL recently reveals how lies and press and media allegations are fabricated and how they are timed to pave the way for certain political moves under various slogans and pretexts.

In a WALL STREET JOURNAL article, Kenneth Timmerman, researcher for the Foreign Relations Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives, urged the administration of President Bill Clinton to be prepared to confront the results of the Iraq-UN talks and to foil them by fabricating a new problem against Iraq.

Timmerman said that a series of decisive meetings are about to be held in New York and that they can result in the lifting of the international sanctions imposed on Iraq. He said that although the lifting of the sanctions would be a terrible mistake, it will occur automatically within months unless the United States raises a convincing issue through which Iraq would be deemed a threat to world peace.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH recalls the false allegations that were raised by U.S. President Clinton, British Crown Prince Charles, and Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of the French president, against Iraq. The paper says that it seems that Timmerman is not convinced about the effectiveness and force of those allegations. Therefore, he wants a new long-term crisis to be created so that the United States would be able to confront what he termed a marathon of meetings between senior Iraqi officials and the UN Security Council.

Intelligence Headquarters Building Reconstructed

JN1511191393 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 15, INA—Technicians and engineers of the Military Industry Commission have reconstructed premises of the Iraqi Intelligence Department in Baghdad which was the target of a U.S. missile attack on June 27, 1993.

Minister of Industry and Minerals and in charge of the Military Industry Commission Lt. General Husayn Kamil Hasan on Saturday [13 November] sent a telegram to President Saddam Husayn announcing that reconstruction work on the Intelligence Department has ended.

The president lauded efforts of the staff of the Military Industry Commission in reply to the telegram.

In his telegram, Lt. General Hasan said that work to reconstruct the department took 110 days to finish.

On June 27, 1993, the United States launched a wanton and criminal cruise missile on the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Department and the surrounding residential sector in Baghdad, al-Mansur and al-Ma'mun quarters.

The U.S. aggression has resulted in the death of some civilians in the nearby houses and the injury of many others including women and children.

Among the victims were the famous Iraqi painter Layla al-'Attar, 49, and her husband 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Amigr, 64.

The cruise attack damaged the Iraqi Intelligence Department premises and turned houses into ruins.

The U.S. Administration linked that aggression to a silly story of an alleged attempt to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush while he was visiting Kuwait. The story was created by the rulers of Kuwait in coordination with the U.S. Administration order to create a pretext for their criminal aggression.

Western 'Conspiracy' Said To Thwart Arab Development

JN1211161193 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 6 Nov 93 pp 4, 6

[Text] London—INA: Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's representative at the Geneva headquarters of the United Nations, has said that by spurning tutelage and bucking any trend to play second fiddle to any power, Iraq continues to be placed under sanctions, despite the fact that it has been complying with UN resolutions, unfair as they are. In statements to the London-based AL-'ARAB newspaper, published yesterday, Barzan al-Tikriti described the iniquitous sanctions as a Western conspiracy in which the al-Sabah family is being manipulated. Its aim is to destroy Iraq and frustrate its development process, and to keep it backward and weak. He indicated that the allied nations have broken all the wartime rules of ethics and values, citing their bombing of economic and industrial targets and infrastructure, even including power stations, water plants, irrigation canals, and bridges. The Iraqi people's will, he added, has thwarted these aggressive aims. With the help of God's and the Iraqi people's will, it has been possible to restore the country's infrastructure and economic installations.

On Arab reconciliation, al-Tikriti said there is a will to effect this fence mending, and noted that efforts are being made to that end. Arab reconcilation, he asserted, is an Arab affair in which foreign powers should not be involved. It is shameful, al-Tikriti stated, that certain Arab quarters are waiting for the green light from outside powers to effect intra-Arab conciliation. He wondered how it will be possible to heal Arab rifts at the behest of foreigners, who, he emphasized, are keen to maintain and foster Arab divisions. He emphasized the resilience and generosity of the Iraqi people, who, he pointed out, have never reneged on their obligations to fellow Arabs. The Iraqi people are, however, disenchanted and harbor a sense of grievance due to the attitude of certain Arab states, al-Tikriti added. He regretted that at the threshold of the 21st century, Arabs still have no plan and cannot figure out how they will handle the next century at a time when Europe, America, Canada, Japan, and the five Asian tigers are bracing for it. He singled out Europe, which he noted has forged an economic union and is already laying the groundwork for political unity. The al-Sabah family, he added, has once again proved its shortsightedness, hiding behind American spears to grab agricultural land, oil fields, and Umm Qasr Port under the guise of border demarcation. They are still following the same route of harming Iraqi interests.

Al-Tikriti called for Arab economic integration inspired by a community of Arab interests, and advised against improvisation and a go-it-alone approach on the part of each Arab state, if Arabs are to ensure their advancement.

Paper Urges Security Council To Honor 'Obligations'

JN1011110093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has warned against any new conspiratorial role that will make the UN Security Council evade its obligations toward Iraq. In an article published today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The escalating new conspiracy aims at creating a pretext for the influential Security Council members not to honor the obligations stipulated in the Security Council resolutions toward Iraq, particularly Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Now that Iraq has fulfilled its commitments, the Security Council should fulfill its obligations provided for in its resolutions in accordance with the principles of justice and the provisions of its Charter vis-a-vis a UN member state. This is what should be done and agreed on following the coming round of the New York talks. The paper notes that the escalating new conspiracy aims at foiling this meeting and creating fabrications to prevent the Security Council from honoring its obligations toward Iraq in accordance with Resolution 687.

The newspaper says that such moves by the enemies of Iraq and their escalating conspiracies are expected, particularly following the success of Iraqi diplomacy in removing all obstacles and refuting all fabrications to prevent ending the abnormal situation imposed on Iraq.

Concluding its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that if some Security Council members try to use false accusations that are unrelated to Paragraph 22 as a pretext and if they procrastinate in implementing this paragraph or postpone implementation for another period, then everyone will become aware of the situation reached by the international organization and its Security Council under the hegemony of the criminal forces. Everyone will also become aware of the injustice inflicted on many nations under the international umbrella.

Opposition Reports Chemical Attacks on Marshlands

NC1511200893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Our sources inside [Iraq] have dispatched a report in which they note that tyrant Saddam's regime, after the repercussions of reports about his chemical attacks on the marshlands of al-Basrah and the spread of this news in the media and international circles—especially the interest generated within the Security Council—and after the UN committee on Iraq decided to send a delegation to question the refugees from the southern marshlands who are currently on the Iraq-Iran border, has taken numerous measures to cover up and eliminate all traces of his crime. This regime has forced the residents of scores of villages close to (Hawr Abu

Zirqi) to leave their villages. This area was attacked by chemical weapons at the end of last month. [passage omitted]

In another part of the report, our sources said that the regime is currently increasing its military and security measures throughout the Governorate of al-Basrah, especially in the region of the marshlands and the roads and axes leading to it. It has deployed hundreds of civilians and military units, which search and interrogate the citizens about information they have regarding the marshlands of al-Basrah, in particular the (Hawr Abu Zirqi) and the areas around it.

On the same level, our sources have cited a number of citizens from the villages of 'Ulwi, (Hawr Abu Zirqi), and the areas around it who have been removed by the regime to other villages and towns in the Governorate of al-Basrah that before they left they hid parts of exploded chemical grenades. These are the remnants of a chemical attack. They added that the regime's security men threatened to kill them if they leaked any information on these recent attacks. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, our sources confirmed that the regime's chemical attack against the marshlands of al-Basrah was carried out under the supervision of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the tyrant's defense minister. They said that the artillery used in the attack was fired from 120-mm and 82-mm mortar shells. This caused great damage to the environment and to the animals in the area. Hundreds of residents of the area and members of the regime's forces fell victim to the attack because the wind shifted direction.

More on Military Movements in Marshlands

PM1511123093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Talks of Military Deployment in Marshland"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Sources of the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" said in a statement distributed yesterday that Iraqi forces continue to intensify their repressive measures against inhabitants of southern Iraq, especially in the areas surrounding the marshland area of Abu Zirqi [as transliterated], which was subjected to an attack by chemical weapons. The assembly's statement said that military convoys had been seen heading south, accompanied by artillery units and tanks. The statement added that the Republican Guards and special security forces continue to evacuate inhabitants of the marshland area of Abu Zirqi in al-Basrah Governorate, most of whom belong to the Arab tribe of al-Shaghanibah, which is known for its opposition to Ba'th Party rule.

The opposition's statement added that scores of citizens from the areas surrounding Abu Zirqi have been captured, many of them moved to unknown places, and their families warned against leaking any information about the use of chemical weapons in the marshland area of Abu Zirqi.

Five 'Senior' Officers Killed by Resistance

NC1211202593 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Five senior officers who participated in the massacres carried out by Saddam's forces in the steadfast marshlands were recently buried in Baghdad's al-A'zamiyah district. Our sources have cited eyewitnesses that say that the criminal regime admitted during the funeral that the five officers in question were killed during an attack by an Islamic resistance group while driving in a private car in al-Basrah. They had just come from their camps in the marshlands. Thus God's just punishment was visited upon those criminals.

Opposition Claims Attack on Army Company Headquarters

NC1211202493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] In retaliation for Saddam's flagrant human rights violations and intense persecution of our people in the south, our heroic mujahidin launched a crushing attack against the headquarters of one of the companies of the 133d Brigade's 1st Regiment. Nine of the mercenaries were killed in the attack, five others were wounded including a criminal with the rank of first lieutenant, and two were captured.

The mujahidin seized three (BKC) rifles, three RPG-7 launchers, seven Kalashnikov rifles, and other equipment. Then, protected by Providence, they returned safely to base.

Saddam Chairs Revolution Command Council Meeting

JN1511191793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1904 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, today chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council. The meeting was attended by Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and National Assembly speaker, and Hatim Hamdan al'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

President Amends Law on Industrial Investment

JN1311124893 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p 4

["Text" of Law No. 16 of 1993 amending Law No. 25 of 1991 on "industrial investment by the private and mixed sectors" issued by the Presidency on 31 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq,

In the name of the people,

The Presidency,

Based on what the People's Assembly has approved, and in accordance with the provisions of Article 53 of the Constitution, we have issued Law 16 of 1993:

Law

Law No. 25 of 1991 on industrial investment by the private and mixed sectors shall be amended as follows:

Article 1: Article 23 of Law No. 25 of 1991 shall be annulled and replaced by the following: Article 23: While observing the provisions of Clause 2 of Article 8 of this law, the industrial projects licensed in accordance with the provisions of the previous laws shall maintain the rights, exemptions, and privileges given to them in accordance with those laws. This excludes services projects, which should adapt their situation to at least the minimum level decided in accordance with Clause 2 of Article 6 of this law. They are free either to acquire the required expansions in accordance with the circumstances of Iraq or to merge with other industrial sectors within two years as of the date the economic blockade imposed on Iraq is lifted. Otherwise, their founding licenses shall be canceled.

Article 2: This law shall become effective as of the date it is published in the official gazette.

Written in Baghdad on 16 Jumada al-Ula 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 31 October 1993.

[signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Reasons for issuance of this law:

This law has been issued in view of the urgent circumstances experienced by the country as a result of the unjust economic blockade imposed on it and in view of that fact that the period specified by Article 23 of Law No. 25 of 1991 on industrial investment by the private and mixed sectors are not sufficient for the owners of factories and small industrial projects to adapt their situation to at least the minimum level specified by Clause 2 of Article 6 of the aforementioned law.

It should be noted that Clause 2 of Article 8 of Article 23 [as published] of Law 25 of 1991 provided that industrial projects which obtain a founding license before the abovementioned law becomes effective, with the exception of services projects, will enjoy all relevant exemptions from taxes and fees that are imposed on the projects that have obtained a founding license in accordance with the provisions of this law since 1 January 1989 or since the date of actual production if it was founded after this date. Clause 2 of Article 6 of Law No. 25 indicated the minimum value of the machinery and equipment of an industrial project that is subject to the rules of this law be 100,000 dinars.

Prime Minister Comments on Saddam's 5 Sep Directives

JN1511163793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir by unidentified reporter on President Saddam Husayn's "directives to the prime minister and ministers during a Council of Ministers' meeting on 5 September 1993"—place and date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] On 5 September 1993, the prime minister and the ministers, after taking the constitutional oath, were honored by meeting leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him. The leader president gave instructions to the prime minister and ministers concerning their future action. We are today thanking Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir for having agreed to give us a few minutes of his time to speak to Baghdad radio about the leader president's directives, and about what has been implemented of these directives. Thank you in advance, Mr. Prime Minister.

[Khudayyir] Thank you. I am really pleased with this meeting. I am ready to explain most aspects of the 5 September directives of the leader president, may God preserve him. After this meeting, these aspects have become the focus of the attention of the ministers, and the Council of Ministers in general.

[Reporter] Among the points, or the aspects, mentioned by the leader president, were three. The first axis is related to solutions to bottlenecks through creative means that were not discussed before. The second axis is tackling the issue of exploiters and intruders. The third axis was alleviating citizens' burdens. Would you please tell us something about what has been implemented in accordance with the directives of the leader president, may God preserve him?

[Khudayyir] Yes, these are the three axes, in addition to a fourth axis, that was one of the main axes. This axis is related to the bottlenecks in the courts in the country, and the delaying of decisions regarding citizens' claims. This places another burden on citizens and their social and economic interests. The leader president has given his instructions in this field. So, there are four axes.

After the end of the meeting and the writing down of all directives, several committees were formed. One committee is chaired by the under secretary of the Industry and Minerals Ministry. All parties, on the ministry cadres, are represented in this committee. This committee discussed the issue of finding better nontraditional ways to get commodities to citizens, taking into consideration the fact that the ration card was a successful way to get commodities to citizens. We consider the ration card the first fruit of the Trade Ministry. It

gained high appreciation from all parties, including neutral international parties, which evaluated this action as an advanced action that alleviated the citizens' burdens. This committee presented its paper after holding meetings to discuss this issue.

The second issue is the issue of monopolizers and this issue's relationship with the activities of the Health Ministry which seeks to supply citizens with subsidized medicines, just as the state aspires and wants, and just as it is actually working for. This is in addition to this issue's relationship with private hospitals, the Health Ministry's stores, and with the delivery of medical supplies and medicines to hospitals and health facilities, as well as with how these medicines reach the citizen with the subsidized price. This was also one of the important axes, especially since medicines, at this stage [are included in the blockade imposed on Iraq]. In fact, the blockade on Iraq includes medicines.

The third paper deals with how to end the tampering with the state's funds and terminate the citizens' financial suffering due to the high prices of commodities in the market. Some of these commodities may be legally or illegally obtained by the parties that display them in the market. This is also one of the axes chaired by the Interior Ministry's under secretary in this committee. Various economic, trade, and industrial parties were represented in this committee.

The fourth axis is the courts. In this regard, the justice minister chaired a committee that submitted an integrated paper on how to facilitate the work of the courts and introduce flexibility, so court cases can be decided according to the time period and the decision of the president leader a few years ago. This period should not exceed six months, that is, this is a deadline for a decision on each case referred to a court.

Regarding the first three axes, the Council of Ministers held extraordinary evening meetings to decide on these papers, most of which are now ready for implementation. Various ministries have been notified of these papers. For example, according to the first paper, a committee is chaired by the under secretary of the Industry and Minerals Ministry. This committee took an inventory of all items produced by the Ministry of Industry as well as the agricultural production materials whose distribution is supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The committee discussed each item produced by Iraq or found in Iraqi warehouses, as well as the current method of distribution and the proposed method. In this paper, we did our best to remove the commission agents who place additional financial burdens on citizens. We also discussed ways to deliver these commodities easily and smoothly to consumers without adding extra costs and avoiding complications in both time and procedures.

The Council of Ministers actually held a lengthy debate on this issue, and made decisions in this regard. These decisions were relayed to the parties concerned. We were pleased to add to the ration cards some commodities produced in Iraq. These items may be few, but they are within our current capabilities. This is because we did our best to add commodities to the ration cards in a way that can completely meet the requirements of these cards and at the same time can maintain the availability of these items.

For example, regarding some of the Industry Ministry's products, we took into account the possibility of continuing to produce these items and their current outlets. We examined each outlet and where agents, commission agents, or any other link could burden the citizens with extra costs.

We have conducted a study and tried to find another way of supplying the citizen with goods in order to ease his financial and economic burdens. Similarly, we have agreed on ways of easing the economic and financial problems, which burden the citizen as a result of the present methods of supplying goods. We also discussed the smooth flow of goods. We should not choose complicated ways of supplying the citizen with goods. We tried to reconcile these two goals.

The other point in this regard is the Minister of Agriculture's role in supplying the farmer with products related to agriculture. This has been an important issue, which was discussed in detail and for which clear-cut formulas were drawn up. For example, how can fertilizers be provided and which side will assess and review the applications? These are very clear points. Goods should be supplied within the time limit, as required by the agricultural season, depending on each season and its timing, on our production capability, and on our factories's ability to provide these materials.

In fact, everybody is aware of our circumstances and the numerous difficulties facing us. But all these difficulties, as well as the enemies' plans to harm Iraq, should not affect our ability. On the contrary, we are able to ease the burden of the citizen, to secure the requirements of work and the production process, and to smoothly supply them to the farms. At the same time, we have to do our best to eliminate the job of the middleman who creates new costs and harms the citizen. When farming costs increase, the consumer will bear them. We have achieved this, and the president, may God preserve him, acquainted himself with it and approved it in general. Then the competent authorities were informed of this, and it will be published in newspapers in installments.

When we tackle the issue of dairy productions, which is a persisting need for the citizen, we should study ways of supplying the citizens with these products. The ration cards issue was discussed as a guaranteed way. The Trade Ministry, however, made observations and explained that the agents' circumstances prevent the ration card agents from distributing dairy products because this requires the agent to have equipment to preserve this perishable material. Therefore, we resorted to other alternatives and caused other control parties to

take part in efforts to distribute goods fairly. We also discussed the ration cards and concluded that the agent can distribute and stamp these cards to show that a certain citizen has received his ration of these products.

Of course, this ration is not enough for all citizens, and our production of this material, whether it is milk, cheese, or others, meets some of the citizens' needs. We have tried as much as we can to choose enough outlets and to provide fair distribution. This was the outcome. The other quarters where informed... [changes thought] for example, when we discussed the subject of diary products, we decided that the committee which prepared the paper should attend popular meetings in two Baghdad areas that we chose, in order to offer suggestions, and talk with them and reach a joint decision. Actually, this was what happened. Two popular meetings were held through the People's Councils in which the subject of dairy products was discussed, as well as the citizens' views, and problems with outlets. An agreement was reached on the outlets that will distribute these products. Hence, this issue has been carefully taken care of by the council and was discussed for a long a time. Then, the council members reached the decisions that are contained in this paper.

The second subject is medicine and medical requirements. Much attention was given to this subject because Iraq is besieged. The possibility of getting medicines is not absolute. There is a scarcity of medicine, particularly in some medicines for chronic and dangerous diseases. It seems to me that when the enemies impose a siege, they apply pressure in specific directions in order to harm the Iraqi people. How can we reconcile this scarcity with the need to make sure medicines reach the citizen who is really in need of them, in a way that keeps these medicines from becoming a commercial commodity? This was also an important paper with very good proposals. The head of the committee that prepared this paper was the under secretary of the Health Ministry. All brothers at the council have discussed the paper enthusiastically with the aim of reaching viable solutions in order to protect the patient from greed and exploitation.

We also touched on the issue pertaining to our medical products, how we can ensure their smooth flow to the ill, and how to protect them. That is, how to set up controls to ensure that medicines and medical requirements do not turn into commodities for bargaining, as sometimes happens.

We discussed the issue pertaining to private sector hospitals, and how to protect the ill and citizens from any exploitation that could take place in this sector. This is one of the pivotal issues raised by his excellency the president, may God protect him. His excellency the president has given us clear instructions in this regard. These instructions call for protecting citizens and the ill from exploitation. The reference here is to the exploitation of people who need medicine and medical treatment. The directives of the leader president sought to protect state products and imports in this area so they will not be exploited by middlemen, especially since this would harm and overburden the citizens.

The third pivotal issue is meant to achieve the same objective. His excellency the president, may God protect him, has instructed us to ease the citizens' burdens whenever possible, through exceptional and extraordinary efforts. He instructed us to remove the burdens that could cause them unreasonable financial costs, and to curtail or eliminate the use of middlemen, who could add additional margins of profit, which might be progressive. Those who add large margins of profit on the commodities put up for sale are parasites.

Meanwhile, we would like to protect state products, whenever possible and in accordance with the results yielded by a field study, in order to keep them from falling into the hands of speculators and greedy people.

A working paper prepared by an expanded committee chaired by the Interior Ministry under secretary addressed this issue. This paper was debated. Courses of action and implementation methods have been identified to address this issue. However, the provisions enshrined in this paper have not been implemented yet. This is because it has not been finalized.

The fourth working paper addresses issues pertaining to the Ministry of Justice and courts. This issue will be the pivot of a future extraordinary session. This is because this paper requires extensive attention. It addresses a wide range of topics pertaining to laws, the regulations governing the work of courts, and the judiciary. Of course, our efforts are all aimed at ensuring the independence of the judiciary. The judiciary must remain the final arbiter in conflicts and disputes. However, many minor disputes and cases can be addressed by agencies other than the judiciary. We are referring to the process of interrogation. This could ease the burdens of the judiciary. This is especially true for minor cases. This paper includes the requirements of promoting the judiciary. It also underscores the need to provide the requirements needed by the judiciary to facilitate the settlement of cases on time. These are pivotal issues included in the directives of the leader president.

We do not claim that we have found the magical solution to problems, but we say that, considering current facts and economic conditions, we are doing our best. Later, we may reconsider the vending mechanism, and the means and ways that can improve the state's effort to alleviate the citizen's burdens, and which, at the same time, agree with all our economic circumstances.

The main problem of Iraq and its people's suffering are not due to Iraq's economic reality or its economic resources. They are due to the injustice and unfairness inflicted on it, and to the unabated unjust aggression to which it was subjected. The enemy objective is to damage this country and its people.

When we introduce solutions and ways, and reconsider matters, we do so for an extraordinary, immediate

condition. When that state ends, Iraq will once again become the competent, capable country whose people enjoy glory, stability, and abundance. The resources and the integration among all economic factors in Iraq cannot be found anywhere else, in oil-producing or in non-oil-producing countries. Even the oil rich countries may not possess resources for an integrated economy like those found in this prosperous country.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Khudayyir] God willing, that objective will be realized. I thank you and Baghdad Radio. We are all soldiers in this march, each playing his own role from the position he occupies. God bless you and thank you very much.

[Reporter] Thank you. Dear listeners, this was an interview with Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir. We thank him for his clarifications. God bless his efforts and those of his colleagues in the Council of Ministers. We call on the brothers to read carefully what the prime minister has said so that they can be aware of the efforts exerted by, and the prospect for future action by the Council for Ministers. Brothers, God's blessings and peace be upon you.

Husayn Kamil Hasan To 'Indirectly' Supervise Ministries

JN1111095993 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Sources close to the ministries of the collapsing regime in Baghdad said that the tyrant Saddam recently appointed the criminal Husayn Kamil Hasan to indirectly supervise the ministries. Husayn Kamil Hasan [words indistinct] controls his hostile war production machine [words indistinct]. The sources explained that Husayn Kamil scores (?success) through employees who previously used to work with him in the military industrialization. These include Bashir 'Alwan, who was the director of Husayn Kamil's office; Nizar Jum'ah (al-Qattur) who was in charge of the supergun; Safa' (al-Habbubi), a former official at the military industrialization organization; and Murtada Ahmad, the former director of the al-Muthanna facility for military industrialization. This is in addition to Hammam 'Abd-al-Khaliq, Husayn Kamil's former assistant. Husayn Kamil Hasan works through this corrupt network to control ministries in the country, which Saddam claims is taken in charge by Ahmad Husayn Khudayir al-Samarra'i after dismissing criminal Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi.

Rabin's Comments During U.S. Visit Reported

Sees 'PLO Disorder' as 'Main Problem'

TA1511172793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the PLO disorder constitutes the main problem in implementing the agreement. He added that the countries which promised to donate funds for the Palestinians have not yet kept their promise. He was speaking with reporters in Washington.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that Rabin is currently meeting Defense Secretary Les Aspin. The two are discussing the price Israel will pay for the new planes it has asked for, as well as other defense aid issues.

Gaza-Jericho Said Top Priority

TA1611074293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Arye Golan, in Washington on 15 November—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, is the order of priorities you set for the peace process—first the Palestinians, then Jordan, and finally Syria—acceptable to the United States? How long does the U.S. Administration think we can keep al-Asad waiting on the sidelines?

[Rabin] First of all, our order of priorities is to initially implement the first part of the agreement of principles or, in other words, Gaza-Jericho First. At the same time, if reasonable opportunities arise with another Arab country or countries, there is no reason for us to shelve these opportunities if they indeed correspond with our policy and positions. If this happens with Jordan.... [changes thought] To my regret, people created exaggerated expectations, as though someone would just come and wrap things up with Jordan. This was not serious. The process with Jordan is not a matter of one or two days.

[Golan] Why is that?

[Rabin] Why? Ask the Jordanians. As far as we are concerned, there is no reason not to establish peace with Jordan. Today, with the areas of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip covered by the Palestinian track, the negotiations with Jordan are about the former international border between Israel at the time of the mandate and Jordan. This does not create significant territorial problems. The Palestinians have already taken a step to meet us halfway. It is only logical that Jordan, therefore, do the same.

These processes are lengthy and subject to various influences; in my opinion, however, something very important has happened. The Madrid framework created a link between four Arab partners. On the surface, bilateral negotiations were taking place, but the framework of an international conference created a mutual dependency. The agreement with the Palestinians reemphasized the fact that the only real way to make progress is first with one Arab partner, who does not create a linkage [last word in English] between its agreement with us and an agreement with other Arab elements.

[Golan] But in an interview to ABC Television today, you said that one Arab partner, 'Arafat, is not responsible for the Palestinians who oppose the agreement and are trying to torpedo it. The question is whether this man can be responsible for control over the territories and prevent the murder of Israelis.

[Rabin] He is definitely incapable of doing this today, because he does not yet constitute a force in the territories—certainly not a force capable of imposing public order and security on the Palestinian populace, which is supposed to fall under the responsibility of the Palestinian police. Our assumption is that he will be able to do so after an agreement is reached and the Palestinian police force is established. Nevertheless, the primary responsibility for the safety of Israelis will be ours.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 16 November carries a related report on Rabin's remarks to Israeli correspondents in Washington, adding that Rabin said "that the reactions in the territories to recent terrorist attacks may encourage further acts of terror."

[In a recorded passage referring to the cost of the fighter jets Israel seeks to purchase from the United States, Rabin says: "Whoever wants to buy such planes must find a way to manage within the framework of the aid package. The Americans are making things easy for us. They are willing to give us what was once considered sophisticated equipment, albeit in a used condition. We have received aircraft such as the F-16 and F-15 in the past, and we will continue to get them at cut-rate prices. All this is done so that we may be able to purchase the most expensive and sophisticated equipment in the United States, if we want to; however, all this must come from within the framework of our military aid budget."]

U.S. Military Aid on F-15's Discussed

TA1611060393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] There is still no agreement between the United States and Israel on the sale price of the new F-15E jets. The discussions on the details of the U.S. military aid package will continue in Washington between Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri and Pentagon officials. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that this transpired during Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's meeting with Secretary of Defense Les Aspin yesterday.

In his meeting with congressional leaders, Mr. Rabin said he is ashamed that a person like Rami Dotan [senior Israeli Air Force officer convicted of taking kickbacks from U.S. companies] is an Israeli; however, it is unfair to make Israel pay the price for this shameful affair.

Rabin asserted that the limitations placed on Israeli procurements in the United States in the wake of the Dotan affair raised the F-15E's price tag, as far as Israel is concerned, by $1 billion.

In a meeting with Israeli correspondents, the prime minister said he would not fall off his chair if the agreement with the Palestinians is not implemented by the target date of 13 December; however, he hopes that agreement can be reached on all the details of the Gaza-Jericho First plan by this date.

Rabin on Israeli POW, MIA Issues

TA1411192293 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Nov 93

['Imanu'el Rosen video report from New York]

[Text] Speaking in New York this evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's. Rabin said that Syria also shares responsibility for the fate of captive navigator Ron Arad. Rabin was speaking before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Our correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports from New York:

[Begin Rosen recording] The peace plan led by Yitzhaq Rabin met with almost total agreement at the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations today. Rabin spelled out in detail the anticipated developments on each of the negotiation tracks and used harsh words when addressing the issue of the Israeli POW's and MIA's.

We now demand, Rabin said, to receive all the information that Israel did not receive in the past. If the PLO wants anything from us, Rabin said, we now expect it to show that it is doing everything for which it is responsible and which it has undertaken.

As for Ron Arad, Rabin also pointed an accusing finger at the Syrians, saying that Hizballah, Iran, and apparently Syria as well, to a certain extent, are responsible for Arad.

Tomorrow's meeting with Secretary of Defense Les Aspin and Pentagon officials will mark the climax of Rabin's visit to the United States. Bill Clinton's agreement in principle to give Israel a defense aid package will have to be given a practical dimension, with the serious allegations voiced against Israel regarding the transfer of American technology to China hovering in the background. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 14 November carries a related report on Rabin's address to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, adding that the prime minister "said that Egypt has removed all the trade barriers with Israel that were in force since the signing of the peace agreement between the two countries." The prime minister also told the assembly "that without the agreement with the PLO, Israel would have found itself facing a growing threat posed by fundamentalist Islamic movements."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1900 GMT on 14 November adds that prior to his appearance before the Jewish leaders, Prime Minister Rabin conferred with Philippines President Fidel Ramos. 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the prime minister's media adviser, said "that the two men discussed trade issues and industrial cooperation between the two countries and that the meeting had been good and positive."]

Gur: Syria Behind 'Terrorist Assault' in Lebanon

TA1611092893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that Syria is behind today's terrorist assault in Lebanon. Gur asserted that the assault was politically motivated, explaining that Damascus is implying that there can be no peace without Syria.

In Gur's opinion, Syria is not seeking a military confrontation with Israel but rather its immediate and full integration into the political process.

Peres to al-Asad: No Intention To Exclude Syria

TA1611055693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke on the telephone last night with his French counterpart, Alain Juppe, who is due in Damascus tomorrow. Peres asked Foreign Minister Juppe to clarify to President al-Asad that Israel has no intention of pushing Syria out of the peace process. Peres explained that the government now has a majority both in the Knesset and among the people to approve an agreement with Syria.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that Minister Peres' statements differ from his recent remarks that Syria will have to wait. Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Peres pointed out, Israel will be unable to accept Syria's demand that it declare its readiness for a full withdrawal before the resumption of the peace talks. Jerusalem authorized the French foreign minister to try to organize a top-level meeting between Israeli and Syrian leaders.

SHAS Asks Rabin To 'Hold Off' on Golan

TA1511155893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] After a tour of the Golan Heights yesterday, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] is telling Prime Minister Rabin to hold off making decisions on the future of the heights. SHAS Knesset faction leader Shlomo Benizri says his party does not rule out a partial withdrawal on the Golan, but yesterday's tour made a deep impression. David Ze'ev reports.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Israeli people are not yet ready to make concessions to the Syrians. Currently in Washington, the prime minister also has to keep in mind whether the SHAS party will return to his government. SHAS Knesset faction leader Shlomo Benizri says the coalition negotiations with Prime Minister Rabin and the Labor party leadership would be best served if the Golan Heights issue is not raised. Speaking after the SHAS Knesset faction was taken on a tour of the Heights yesterday by residents there, Knesset Member [MK] Benizri was deeply impressed. We will not be surprised the way we were when the accord was reached between Israel and the PLO, says Benizri. SHAS abstained in that Knesset vote. SHAS does not oppose some kind of withdrawal on the Heights, but yesterday, Benizri and his colleagues were flown by local leaders over the areas effected and the SHAS faction leader says he came away convinced that the north, if not the entire country would be endangered by a withdrawal from strategic locations, as Benizri put it. He said SHAS will demand explanations from army officers to reassure the party leadership that any pullback will not bear a heavy strategic price. The SHAS political leadership, including Benizri and Arye Der'i, is to present its recommendations following yesterday's tour to the party's spiritual leaders.

Tzomet Supports Peace Settlement With Jordan

TA1511193093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tzomet announced that it supports a peace settlement with Jordan, and within that framework negotiations will be held over the agricultural lands east of the Ha'arava River. Tzomet also suggests negotiating with Jordan on the establishment of two joint desalination installations, the use of Ashdod and Ashqelon ports, and supplying water to Jordan's potash plant. Refa'el Eytan told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that Jordan should not be given any status in the Latrun enclave as the Jordanians are demanding.

Importance of 'Economic Summit' With PLO Viewed

NC1411171993 Paris AFP in English 1428 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 14 (AFP)—If the Israel-Palestinian economic summit, which opens in Paris on Tuesday [16 November], is not successful the whole autonomy deal is in danger, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said Sunday.

"I hope this will be the basis for economic life between us and the Palestinians which is essential in order for the peace agreement to be successful," Shohat told a press conference.

"This includes everything that is collateral to the daily problems of economic life .. agriculture, industry, taxation, imports and investment," said the minister who will lead a delegation in talks with a Palestinian team led by PLO economic department chief Ahmad Quray'.

It is the first meeting of a joint committee set up under the September 13 autonomy agreement to implement the economic side of the accord in parallel with the military and political talks which began last month in Egypt.

"Without finishing these negotiations in Paris it will be very hard to finish the military and civilian negotiations in Taba," Shohat said.

The Taba talks, which baulked over Israel's plan to maintain troops on the Gaza Strip, resume in Cairo on Monday and are expected to extend to the Red Sea resort on Tuesday.

"We are coming with suggestions which we believe are good for the Palestinians and good for Israel and are good for the entire region of the Middle East.

"We hope we shall be able to sum it up very soon and I believe if we work continuously we shall be able to finish it in about two months.

Shohat said he would meet Quray' in private on Monday night "to try to deal with some aspects of the negotiations that should be dealt (with) before the official meeting takes place on Tuesday morning."

The first session of the committee comes after the November 5 meeting also in the French capital of the main autonomy donors who have pledged two billion dollars for the Palestinians over five years.

The session is set to last two days.

Rabin: Somalia's General Aidid 'Iranian Agent'

TA1511192493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin said Somalia's General Aidid is an Iranian agent. Rabin believes Iran is more dangerous than Iraq, and that the United States has still not managed to convince West Europe and Japan to cease aiding Iran.

A senior source disclosed in Washington today that an Iranian vessel left Syria six weeks ago with arms for Gen. Aidid, but was detained.

'Terrorists' Launch 'Offensive' in Security Zone

TA1611063093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, the terrorists launched a widespread offensive against the southern Lebanon security zone, particularly in the central sector, and fired dozens of katyusha rockets.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that several rockets landed on the border between Lebanon and Israel, opposite the Galilee Panhandle. Two IDF [Israel

Defense Forces] soldiers were very slightly injured. The terrorists also attacked three SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts.

Reports from Lebanon claim that the outpost near Tallusah was overrun and that the SLA soldiers manning it were taken captive. This report remains unconfirmed by other sources, however. Heavy exchanges of fire are currently taking place between the IDF and the terrorists throughout the entire central sector of the security zone.

One 'Seriously Wounded' by 'Terrorists' in Hebron

TA1511055993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpt] A Jewish man was seriously wounded in a terrorist attack in Hebron this morning. Our correspondent Steve Linde reports:

The Jewish resident of Hebron was on his way to pray at the Tomb of the Patriarchs early this morning. He has not yet been identified, but is about 40 years old. As he approached the Tomb of the Patriarchs he was attacked by two Palestinians with axes. He was seriously wounded by blows to his head, and has been taken to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. During the struggle with his assailants the man managed to draw his gun and shoot and kill one of them. The second succeeded in pulling the man's gun from his hand, and he fled from the spot. A medical team from nearby Qiryat Arba' arrived soon after the attack. They administered first aid to the wounded Israeli and determined the death of one of the assailants. Security forces have imposed a curfew on the area and launched a search for the attacker. Angry Jewish residents of Qiryat Arba' arrived at the site of the attack and security forces are working to maintain calm. [passage omitted]

Riots, Protests in Hebron; Arab Killed in al-Birah

TA1611110393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Settlers from Hebron and Qiryat Arba' rioted this morning in the center of Hebron. They overturned vegetable and fruit stalls in the market, damaged Arab cars, and smashed windows. So far, there are no reports of casualties among the Arab residents or of arrests among the settlers. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the rampage began after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lifted the curfew on downtown Hebron, imposed yesterday following the attack in which Avraham Zarbiv was wounded. The settlers said they were protesting the fact that the IDF had hastened to lift the closure, even though curfews generally remain in force at the scene of terrorist attacks for several days.

Justice Minister David Liba'i warned the settlers that there are clear red lines and no one may take the law into his own hands. He stressed that the government is obligated to defend all the residents of the country, Arabs as well as Jews. Liba'i noted that the right to protest and demonstrate must be exercised in ways acceptable under a democratic regime. The justice minister asserted that the government has shown great patience in its reaction; however, if anyone attempts to intimidate the government or influence its decisions by illegal means, it will ultimately have no choice but to quash such attempts and defend those attacked. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that Justice Minister Liba'i was speaking to high school students at Ma'ale Efrayim in the Jordan Rift Valley.

Rami 'Izzat al-Rizali, a 16-year-old resident of al-Birah, has been killed by IDF gunfire. Another youth was injured. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that stones were hurled at IDF soldiers from inside a schoolyard. The soldiers first used tear gas canisters and then fired their weapons in order to restore order, hitting the two youths. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 16 November reports that "there was a terrorist attack at the Erez checkpoint approximately one hour ago in which an Arab man stabbed two Israeli citizens. The assailant was shot and killed." Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 16 November adds that "a Qol Yisra'el reporter says that the terrorist belonged to the Islamic Jihad."]

Peres Orders Security Forces To Restrain Settlers

TA1611081293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres met with senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers and with police and security officials in order to discuss the increase in rioting by the settlers. Peres ordered the security forces to take all the necessary steps in order to restrain the rioters. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the attorney general was a party to the discussions. Minister Yosi Sarid said that the government is firmly determined to stop the settlers' retaliatory actions.

MK Views Settlers' Security, 'Arafat Denunciation

TA1511121793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says the problem of ensuring the safety of the Israelis in the territories is the most complicated issue in the negotiations with the PLO, and many elements relating to this problem have still not been ironed out. According to MK Or there is a conflict of interests between what the government wants on the one hand, and Qiryat Arba' settlers on the other. MK Or told our correspondent Yisra'el Segal that Yasir 'Arafat still does not feel himself secure enough to denounce terrorism over the electronic media on the Palestinian street.

Settlers Occupy Apartments in Hebron's Arab Areas

TA1511120393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Eight Jewish families have recently entered apartments in the Ja'bariyah Hill neighborhood in Hebron, opposite Qiryat Arba'. Our correspondent Gil Litman has learned the houses have been prepared for about a year. The settlers claim they bought the apartments at their full value, but the Construction and Housing Ministry has not allowed them to enter. There are 32 additional empty apartments in the neighborhood which the settlers intend to occupy soon.

Over the last few weeks settlers have occupied dozens of apartments owned by the Construction and Housing Ministry located in various places in Judaea and Samaria, such as Giv'at Haharsina, Qiryat Arba', Bet El, Barqan, and Yaqir.

IDF Outpost Removal Called Sign of 'Good Will'

TA1211170593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Nov 93 p 4

[Report by Yoram Binur, Moshe Tuv-El, and Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpts' Settlers moved into 14 empty houses in the Giv'at Haharsina neighborhood in southeast Qiryat Arba' yesterday evening.

The 14 houses occupied by the squatters fall under the freeze imposed by the government. Several houses in Bet El were occupied in a similar manner last week. The impromptu settlement operation—unapproved by the incumbent authorities—was organized with the active assistance of Qiryat Arba's local council.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday evacuated a military base near Shavey Shomron. The settlers were consequently left without any military protection and had to guard the settlement themselves. [passage omitted]

Commenting on this development, an official military source said: "The IDF has not been guarding the settlement. Settlements are guarded according to criteria determined by the IDF and the relocation of the base has got nothing to do with Shavey Shomron's security."

The IDF yesterday disbanded the military outpost opposite the al-Duhayshah refugee camp in the Bethlehem area which had been erected at the beginning of the intifadah to watch over the main road and to prevent stone-throwing from inside the camp. A military source said yesterday that notwithstanding the removal of the outpost, the IDF has not changed the number of military troops operating in the area. According to him, the soldiers in the outpost have been relocated to other points overlooking the road.

A senior defense establishment source noted yesterday that the removal of the outpost was part of the IDF's new policy whereby it prefers to deploy troops in problematic spots in the territories.

This development is also a gesture and a signal of good will toward the Palestinians showing that the IDF will reduce the number of troops in areas in the territories where there is relative quiet.

Poll Views Rabin Popularity, Peace Process

TA1011162793

[Editorial Report] Eliyahu Hasin in Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew on 10 November on pages 1 and 5 carries a poll which studies the popularity of the three candidates for future prime minister—Labor Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, and Tzomet's Refa'el Eytan—as well as support for the negotiations to achieve a Middle East political settlement. The poll was conducted by the Shelah Institute on 1, 2, 3 November among 629 interviewees, who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population, except for the kibbutzim. The margin of error is 3.9 percent. The following figures are all as published in HA'OLAM HAZE.

The first question put to the respondents was: "For which of the three candidates would you vote if direct elections for prime minister were held today?"

Rabin—37.3 percent; Eytan—22.6 percent; Netanyahu—21.1 percent; No reply—19 percent.

The answers to that question showed three things: "A. Among the three, Rabin received the most support among higher socio-economic groups. Netanyahu's support rested on lower socio-economic groups, and Eytan is situated between the two." "B. The low level of support Netanyahu received among Likud voters—less than half—shows that his popularity is sinking fast." "C. Eytan has a relatively high level of support among Likud voters, some two-thirds of that given to the elected Likud candidate."

On the political situation, the respondents were asked: "To what extent do you support or oppose the Israeli-PLO agreement" signed on the White House lawn on 13 September?

Support it very much—14 percent; Support it—41 percent; Oppose it—24 percent; Oppose it very much—16 percent. The others polled did not respond.

This shows that "support for the accord usually increases as the respondent's socio-economic level rises. For example, it has the support of 69 percent of university educated people, 64 percent among Israelis of European descent, and 72 percent among those with more than average incomes. Among Likud voters there is a large minority of 27 percent which supports the accord, while among Labor voters 15 percent oppose it."

Another question was: "To what extent do you think the agreement will be implemented?

The entire agreement will be implemented—14 percent; Most of it will be implemented—34 percent; Only a small part will be implemented—33 percent; It will not be implemented at all—12 percent.

A completely different picture surfaced when the people were asked about the way the negotiations were being handled and the progress being made in them. To the question: "In your view, how is the government handling the negotiations with the PLO?" The response was: Very well—6 percent; Fairly well—32 percent; Not so well—35 percent; Very badly—24 percent.

The poll did not show any major differences between the various socio-economic groups.

When asked: "To what extent are you pleased or displeased with progress in the negotiations with the PLO so far?" the response was:

Very pleased—4 percent; Pleased 28 percent; Not so pleased—40 percent; Very unpleased—25 percent."

In reference to reports that the prime minister is inclined to put off negotiations with Syria until after the negotiations with the Palestinians are completed, the interviewees were asked: "Should Israel try to make progress in the peace negotiations with Syria parallel with the talks with the Palestinians?"

It should—71 percent; It should not—25 percent; No response—4 percent.

"The poll showed that among grade school graduates the relationship between those who support efforts along the Syrian track compared with those who oppose it is 2:1; among university graduates it is 3.5:1; among Israelis of European descent it is 5.3:1; among lower income brackets it is 2.1:1; while among those with above average incomes it is 6:1." It also demonstrated that 79 percent of Labor voters support a parallel effort with Syria while among Likud voters 65 percent do.

On the days that the poll was taken the government sustained a series of blows. A Jewish settler was killed in Ramallah, the Palestinians walked out of the Taba talks, and Labor lost Tel Aviv and Jerusalem in the mayoral elections. Against this background, the interviewees were asked: "How, in your opinion, is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin performing?"

Very well—13 percent; Fairly well—39 percent; Not so well—28 percent; Very badly—29 percent.

Rabin's popularity is still higher than the low point he reached in the wake of the wave of stabbings in March when only 41 percent gave him good marks, but it has not reached the level of support in mid-August when 58 percent thought he was doing a good job.

Potential Knesset Seats (if elections were held now)

	November	Late Sep	Early Sep	Apr	92 elections
Labor	43	49	41-42	39	44
Likud	35	33	35-36	39	32
Meretz	9	8	10-11	10	12
Tzomet	11	8	11-12	10	8
NRP	6	6	6-7	6	6
SHAS	6	5	5-6	6	6
UTJ	3	4	3-4	4	4
Moledet	2	2	2-3	2	3
HADASH + Arabs	5	5	5-6	5	5

[Key to abbreviations in table: NRP—National Religious Party; SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; UTJ—United Torah Jewry; HADASH—Democratic Front for Peace and Equality. All figures as published.]

Gap Between Rabin Standing at Home, Abroad Viewed

TA1611115893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Nov 93 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "And What About the Home Turf?"]

[Text] It was the warmest reception ever accorded an Israeli prime minister by the White House. The enthusiastic report by the Qol Yisra'el correspondent accompanying Rabin on his tour was later corroborated by the images on television. Not only Rabin in America but the entire government all around the world is enjoying sympathy the likes of which we have not known in decades. No wonder ministers are constantly traveling abroad and staying longer than needed to finish their business. At home they are not getting the same appreciation and coddling they get abroad.

If the world had to elect an Israeli government, there is no doubt that Rabin's government would score a landslide. While the world thinks highly of Rabin, however, and Clinton seems to brim with admiration for him, public opinion polls published in Israel over the weekend show a decline in support for the government. Judging by these polls, if elections had been held at the time of "the warmest reception ever accorded an Israeli prime minister by the White House," Labor and Meretz would have mustered less votes than in the last election. According to two experts, they probably would not have been able to establish the same government again.

The gap between popularity abroad, particularly in the United States, and popularity at home is nothing new. The most prominent example that comes to mind is Gorbachev, who was the pet of the Western world but remained unloved in his country. This goes to show that international support is very important, but when all is said and done, the main battlefront of a politician who wants to stay in power is his home turf. The gap between

his government's popularity in the world and the less-than-lukewarm sentiment it enjoys at home had better worry Rabin and prod him to action.

The analogy between Gorbachev and Rabin will probably shock some Sovietologists, but the truth is that there are quite a few similarities between the revolutionary changes both men brought about. The democratic world was thrilled with Gorbachev because he paved the way to democracy. They encouraged him because they took what he did for granted and, at the same time, because this had been their dream about Russia. The same applies to Rabin: The world regards him as the man who brought about the breakthrough they had been expecting from Israel for years—that is, to cede the territories in exchange for peace and to cease its rule over another nation. The Russians had trouble swallowing the changes all at once, and Israelis seem to be having the same problem.

After all, generations of Israelis were raised on the Masada complex. Labor, no less than Likud, is responsible for decades of national brainwashing. It demonized the PLO and etched upon the national consciousness the concept that a Palestinian state would jeopardize Israel's existence and that ceding the Golan Heights would be tantamount to suicide from the security point of view. Now, however, it is a government led by Labor that is going against the tide and against everything that was drilled into our heads for decades.

To repeat, world opinion is very tickled about this turnabout, but at home we are suffering from indigestion. The effects of decades of brainwashing are showing, now that the initial euphoria has worn off. People feel a great deal of anxiety and confusion about what the future holds in store, in view of the absence of results in the field (including an improvement in personal safety), the fact that we are dealing with a process where "only time will tell" how things turn out, and the vague solutions being used to put off many tough and undefined steps.

Rabin and Peres are playing their cards close to their chest—so close, unfortunately, as to preclude a dialogue between the government and the people. Although diplomatic secrecy is a legitimate tool, it poses a problem for statesmen whose governments are hanging on by the skin of their teeth. Hence, all the talk about "cards close to the chest" makes one wonder: Who are they seeking to mislead—their interlocutors or the people? Clinton, Mubarak, and perhaps even 'Arafat and al-Asad know more about where the Rabin government is headed than the Israeli people. The feeling is that the government is conducting diplomacy behind the people's back, not telling it the whole truth, and concealing from it the future bitter pills it has been concocting in secret.

Admittedly, the support of the Clinton administration is important, and it is very nice to be loved by the world. In order to realize his policy, however, Rabin primarily needs the broad support of his people back home. He would be well advised to convene a summit between the government and the people who elected it. They also deserve to know where they are really being led.

Paper Views Election Results in Third District

JN1311142593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 10

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The victory of Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Ibrahim al-Kilani and subsequently the loss of liberal contender Faris al-Nabulsi in the Third District, during Monday's Parliamentary elections is not, at first glance, an indication of change in the political mood in Amman's most affluent and politicised area.

This is so, according to analysts, because it was a case of an Islamist, Dr. al-Kilani, replacing another Islamist, Layth Shubaylat, who did not enter the 1993 election race. Both second and third Muslim seat winners are considered liberal candidates on the social agenda. The Christian seat was retained by a pan-Arab leftist and the Circassian seat was also filled by a leftist, although both were won by new faces. These results appear to fall in line with the same formula of the 1989 elections.

The real change, however, is that whereas Mr. al-Nabulsi clearly represented a Jordanian-Palestinian agenda, Mr. Abu al-Raghib, who replaced him, is considered to be purely focused on the Jordanian agenda.

Although at least Messrs Tahir al-Masri and 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, who succeeded in last Monday's elections, are well accepted as progressive liberals who want to see democracy move forward, the majority of their voters elected them because of their "clear identity" along the Jordanian-Palestinian divide and not because of any difference in their progressive and secular outlooks.

The high number of votes that Mr. al-Kilani—minus the percentage that the IAF moved to this district from other front enclaves—clearly indicated that the Islamists in the district voted in favour of an Islamic face because they wanted to consolidate a success for the Islamists in this predominantly open constituency.

This argument is substantiated by the fact the Mr. al-Nabulsi, who ran on a progressive leftist ticket which watered down the Palestinian-Jordanian divide, did not win despite calls from Islamist renegade politician Mr. Shubaylat to back him.

The fact that Mr. al-Nabulsi appeared to represent several political—and contradicting—ideals, ranging form being a liberal on the social agenda, to a perceived rejectionist on the peace process and calling for a socialist economic programme in a free market electoral district, confused voters and contributed to his loss.

Logistical considerations aside, Mr. al-Nabulsi, according to analysts, failed to come up with a very clear portrayal of one identity at a time when the mood of the voters was to make statements of identity rather than a statement of ideals.

Prior to the Nov 8 election day, predictions placed the three winners and Mr. al-Nabulsi on almost equal footing since most analysts expected that the Islamists, who felt allegiance to Mr. Shubaylat would heed his call and support Mr. al-Nabulsi. Where this analysis failed is that Mr. al-Nabulsi had originally attracted the votes of the Christians and liberals who wanted to repay him for his stand against segregation of schools but were sent scurying when a full page newspaper advertisement equating him with an Islamist like Mr. Shubaylat was published as part of a campaign by "the friends of Mr. al-Nabulsi." And just like the liberals and Christians opted for someone who would, without ambiguity, stand for and defend their social agenda, the Islamists in the district were not going to vote for a liberal just because he had secured the support of an Islamist.

The high number of votes that Mr. al-Kilani secured in these elections, most observers believe, strongly indicated that the Islamists were less concerned with the human rights and democracy issues, which Mr. Shubaylat had propagated during his four-year tenure as deputy in the 11th parliament, and cast their votes to the only Islamist face they knew.

Analysts believe the IAF argument that the Islamists were being targetted won the IAF the support of conservative voters who did not necessarily support the Front.

But it was not all Islamist support in the Third District that gave Mr. al-Kilani the highest number of votes in this affluent district. It was evident, campaign managers and observers say, that the over 9,000 votes that Mr. al-Kilani got in this race could not have all come from this district since the Muslim Brotherhood Movement in 1989 had a base support vote of around 5,000 votes only. Coupled with the fact that preliminary calculations indicated that the Islamists did not increase their strength but maintained a steady support among their constituents, the increase in their votes in the Third District, most observers maintain, could only have come from moving votes into this district from other districts.

Logistics, therefore, became too powerful an instrument, and only Messrs al-Masri and Abu-al-Raghib could get anywhere near the well organised Islamists in ensuring that logistical support was on their side. It is estimated by some observers that the two candidates may have transferred 4,000 votes, between them, into their constituencies during the campaign.

IAF sources concede that they needed to get their foot in the door by winning in this district, which is usually considered the ultimate litmus test for candidates running on political, rather than clannish or strictly provincial, platforms.

However, despite their majority win in this district, the Islamists had to contend with two other formidable forces which equally needed to prove their presence on the Jordanian political map, i.e. East Jordanian identity and the identity of Jordanians with origins in Palestine.

After the Gaza-Jericho agreement was signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel without prior consulation with Jordan, many Jordanians felt that it was time they reasserted their separate political identity and left Palestinian politics to the Palestinians.

The foremost method to prove their separateness was to elect those who followed "clear East Jordanian politics" to the Lower House of Parliament. Mr. Abu al-Raghib appeared to fit the ticket and his support base in the Third District was, in its majority, clearly East Jordanian.

Since Mr. Abu al-Raghib received about 5,000 votes in 1989, at a time when most voters felt little need to stress their separate identity, the jump to over 8,000 votes in 1993 indicates a definite swing in the votes of support from the Jordanian elite in the Third District.

The need to underline this very clear-cut East Jordanian identity hurt Mr. al-Nabulsi, who is also East Jordanian by definition but carried political ideals of his father, former prime minister Sulayman al-Nabulsi, which supported the Palestinian struggle and did not stress separateness.

In fact, Mr. al-Nabulsi did not only lose among East Bank Jordanians but also among Palestinians, some of whom, basically the moderates, did not agree with some of his slogans, like "no normalisation with the enemy."

Since Mr. al-Masri, a former prime minister who was born in Nabulus, was also in the race for one of this district's three seats, Mr. al-Nabulsi could not win the moderate "Palestinian vote," which also wanted to stress its presence on the political map and with a weight equal to that of the Jordanians and Islamists.

Jordanians of Palestinian origin, in reaction to the Gaza-Jericho agreement and the conflicting official reports about whether Jordanians of Palestinian origin can vote here or not, also wanted to ensure that their representative is in Parliament and part of the legislative process which will affect their future. Their votes, in their majority, went to Mr. al-Masri.

Mr. al-Nabulsi, in the final analysis, only received the votes of those who still believed that democratic ideals and good performance in parliament stood above purely nationalistic concerns. They, however, only numbered about half of the total number of votes that either Mr. Abu al-Raghib or Mr. al-Masri gained.

A large measure of the votes Mr. al-Nabulsi, at first glance, would have had in these elections, were those of the Christians and leftists. But a closer look at the map of candidates who were contesting the Christian and Circassian seats suggested that Mr. al- Nabulsi could lose to either of the women candidates for the Circassian seat, or to one of the leftists contesting the Christian seat.

Analysts believe that the race for the Christian seat in the Third District was obviously affected by the parallel struggle witnessed over the Muslim seats. Khalil Haddadin, who had the largest politically-committed base won, even though he only secured around 1,600 votes.

The main contestants for this seat, originally, were Mr. Haddadin, who represented the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, Mr. Ya'qub Zayyadin, the Jordan Communist Party and Mr. Fakhri Qa'war, an independent leftist. The almost similar orientation of the three candidates made it difficult for the non-committed leftists to cast their votes in favour of one candidate, therefore dividing the vote among the three and a fourth candidate—Suhayl Sharayhah—who was not a close competitor but nevertheless took a share of the leftist vote.

Mr. Qa'war would have needed the support of his allies in 1989, the Islamists, who were not willing to take chances with their votes and opted to give full support to Mr. al-Kilani.

The race, therefore, remained between the two candidates with sizeable political party support. Mr. Haddadin's chances only improved after Mr. Walid 'abd al-Hadi, who was also a pan-Arabist, had a solid 1,000 vote support from his party, many of these votes went to Mr. Haddadin, giving the seat.

Circassian candidate Mansur Murad, who in 1989 secured 8,747 votes with the support of "Palestinian" and leftist voters, this time lost both blocs, with the Palestinian votes favouring Mr. al- Masri and the leftist votes going to different Christian candidates. His alliance with the Islamists in the 11th Parliament did not pay off as expected because of the struggle over the Islamist seat.

The obvious winner from these interconnected forces in the Third District was Tujan Faysal, who will now enter history books as the first female deputy in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament.

Ms. Faysal, whose campaign picked up only in the last week of electioneering, collected all the disgruntled votes left over from the race for the three Muslim seats as well as support from voters who wanted a woman to reach Parliament.

Her biggest support came from a good number of Christian voters who had already decided that they wanted to influence the choice of Muslim deputies representing this district.

Mr. al-Nabulsi had won large support among liberals and Christians after he led a campaign, in the 11th Parliament, against a proposal by Muslim Brotherhood's parliamentary bloc to segregate public and private schools. He also enjoyed the support of prominent Christian personalities and church leaders who campaigned for Mr. al-Nabulsi as early as 1989.

Most of the liberals and Christians shifted support to Ms. Faysal, who was campaigning courageously against Islamic fundamentalism.

JORDAN TIMES Profiles Parliament Members

JN1111102293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Nov 93 pp 3

[More "Brief Profiles" of newly elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament]

[Text]

Dr. Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani (IAF)
Third District, Amman
Born in al-Salt 1937, he studied Islamic law in Damascus and then in Baghdad where he obtained a B.A. and doctorate in Islamic law from al-Azhar University. He worked for Jordan Radio as director of religious programmes from 1960-1973, then at the University of Jordan teaching at the Sharia College. He became minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs in the Mudar Badran government of 1991, then returned to the University of Jordan.

Khalil Haddadin (Arab Socialist Ba'th Party)
Third District, Amman
Born in Ma'in south of Madaba in 1939, he was educated in Amman and Damascus. He worked in the contracting business, served as deputy president of the Jordanian Contractors Association and became its president in 1992.

Munir Subar (Independent)
Fifth District, Amman
Born in Wadi al-Sir in 1949, he obtained a B.Sc. in civil engineering from Ankara University in 1973. He worked as an engineer at the Ministry of Public Works from 1973 to 1982. He has a private engineering office in Bayadir Wadi al-Sir.

'Abd-al-Majid al-Aqtash (Independent Islamist)
Sixth District, Madaba
Born in al-Dawayimah near Hebron on the West Bank in 1945, he studied at Madaba school and obtained a B.A. in Islamic law from the University of Jordan in 1970. He received his M.A. in politics and Islamic economy from Cairo University in 1981, and a doctorate in politics and Islamic economy from Riyadh University in 1986. He worked as a teacher at the Ministry of Eduction and later at King Sa'ud University in Riyadh until 1993.

Samih al-Farah (Independent)
Sixth District, Madaba
Born in Madaba in 1962, he received his secondary eduction at Terra Sancta College. From 1947 to 1950 he worked for the Iraqi Petroleum Company, and later joined the Ministry of Finance for 19 years. He was elected Mayor of Madaba for two consecutive terms (1973-1981). He was a member of the National Consultative Council in 1982.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid 'Azzam (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in Kaf 'An, Irbid, he obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Nevada in 1973. He received an M.A. in political science from California State University in 1981 and his PhD from Clairmount University in California in 1983. He worked for al-Yarmuk University from 1983 to 1993 and became associate professor of political science.

Dr. Ahmad Miflih al-Qudah (Independent)
'Ajloun District
Born in 'Ayn Janna, 'Ajloun in 1940, he obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Istanbul University in 1969. He served in medical posts at the Ministry of Health. He was director of 'Ajloun Health Department and also worked as director of North al-Shunah and Jarash Health Departments.

Dayfallah al-Mumani (IAF)
'Ajloun District
Born in 'Ibbin near 'Ajloun, studied in 'Ibbin and Sakhrah towns and later at Hawwara Teachers Training College in 1961. He obtained a B.A. in history from Damascus University in 1967 and a diploma in education from al-Yarmuk University in 1982. He worked as a teacher for 27 years for the Ministry of Education schools until he retired in 1993.

Farah al-Rabadi (Independent)
'Ajloun District
Born in 'Ajloun in 1936, he obtained his B.A. from Damascus University, his M.A. from the American University of Beirut, and his doctorate from the Jesuit University of Beirut in 1984. His fields of study were eduction and psychology. He worked for the Ministry of Education until he was retired recently.

'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali (al-'Ahd Party)
al-Karak District
Born in al-Karak in 1934, he obtained a B.Sc. in civil engineering in 1957 from Baghdad University. He later served as Jordan's ambassador to the United States, then as director general of the Public Security Department (PSD). He joined the Armed Forces, and served in 1979 as Chief of Staff.

Nazih al-'Ammarin (Independent)
al-Karak District
Born in al-Karak in 1943, he obtained a B.Sc. in general surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons in Great Britain in 1977 and a doctorate in medicine from Vienna University in 1979. He served at the Royal Medical Services from 1970-1984 and held several posts including deputy governor of al-Karak in 1984. He has been in private practice since 1989.

Dr. Hani al-Hijazin (Independent)
al-Karak District
Born in al-Karak in 1934, he obtained a B.Sc. in medicine from Baghdad in 1963 and a diploma in pediatrics from Great Britain in 1964. He was a member of the National Consultative Council in 1982. He has been in private practice in al-Karak for 28 years.

Muhammad Abu-'Alim (Independent)
al-Mafraq District

Born in al-Mafraq in 1949, he studied at al-Mafraq and Irbid schools. He graduated with a medical degree from Athens and worked for Al-Husayn Medical Centre and later Chicago University. He also worked in Qatar. He was a member of the Royal Commission that prepared the National Charter.

Falih Sha'watah (Independent)
Irbid District
Born in al-Tirah near Haifa in 1946, he studied at Irbid shools and finished secondary education in 1966. He had training in pharmacy work and worked as as assistant pharmacist from 1967 to 1972. In 1972 he was sentenced to a prison term but was pardoned. He worked in Libya as an assistant pharmacist in 1974. In 1976 he was imprisoned again and was discharged in 1982. Later he studied Arabic at Yarmuk University and was arrested and jailed between 1987 and 1989. He was unemployed until his election to Parliament.

Muhammad al-Dawudiyah (Independent)
al-Tafilah District
Born in H-4 [al-Ruwayshid] in 1947, he obtained a diploma in English from Amman schools. He worked for the Ministry of Eduction from 1968 to 1976. He was a columnist at AL-DUSTUR Arabic daily and other papers from 1976 until 1992. In 1992 he was appointed as director of the Information Office at the Royal Court, a post he held for one year.

Samir al-Habashinah (Jordanian Arab Democratic Party)
al-Karak District
Born in Bethlehem in 1951, he finished school in Amman and obtained his B.A. in agriculture from Baghdad University in 1974. He worked in the agricultural field for the private and public sectors and as a columnist for AL-DUSTUR Arabic Daily. He served as adviser to the minister of youth for one year ending in 1993, when he resigned to run for elections. He was a member of the Royal Commission for the National Charter and is a member of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies Constituent Assembly.

More New Members Profiled

JN1311131093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 93 p 3

["Continuation of Brief Profiles of newly elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament"]

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following is the continuation of brief profiles of newly-elected members of the 12th Lower House of Parliament made available to the Jordan Times.

* Denotes freshman members.

'Ali Sulayman Muhammad al-Shatti (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in Dayr 'Alla, he obtained his B.A. and later received a post graduate diploma from al-Yarmuk University. He was director of Dayr 'Alla Finance Department.

Ibrahim Shihadah al-Hajj Yusuf Hamdan (Independent)
Al-Balqa' District
Born in Hebron in 1951, he worked as a teacher in refugee camps until 1982. He has a law degree and served as a member of the Palestine National Council.

Miflih Hamad al-Munayzil al-Ruhaymi al-Hararishah (Independent)
Jarash District
Born in al-Mushayrifah in 1954, he obtained a B.A. in economics and business administration from the University of Jordan 1979. He is a member of Jarash development committee.

Sulayman Salamah al-Sa'd al-Khalaf (IAF)
Jarash District
Born in Raymun, Jarash, in 1949, he graduated with a degree in Islamic law from the University of Jordan. He is currenlty pursuing his M.A. studies in Islamic judiciary. He is the president of the IAF branch in Jarash and a member of the its Shura [Islamic consultation] Council. He was the Awqaf Department director in 'Ajlun and Jarash and recently the assistant general director for King 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn Mosque.

Mahmud 'Abd-al-Latif Dhiban al-Huwaymil (Independent)
Al-Karak District
Born in Ghawr al-Mazra'ah in 1956, he obtained a law degree from Beirut Arab University.

Jamil Salim Salamah al-'Ushush (Independent)
Al-Karak District
Born in Ghawr al-Safi in 1949, he holds a Tawjihi [high school] certificate.

Hatim Muhammad al-Bashir al-Ghizawi (Independent)
Al-Kurah District
Born in al-Mashari' near Irbid in 1947, he obtained a law degree from Cairo University in 1969. He served as assistant governor of al-Ramtha District and administrator at the Prime Ministry and worked for the Ministry of Education.

Nadir Muhammad al-Subh al-Zuhayrat (Independent)
Al-Kurah District
Born in al-Shunah al-Shamaliyah in 1942, he received his secondary eduction in Irbid and obtained a B.A. in history from Damascus University in 1963. He worked for the Ministry of Education from 1964-1970, he was elected mayor of al-Shunah al- Shamaliyah from 1980-1988.

Tawfiq Mahmud Husayn Kurayshan (Independent)
Ma'an District

Born in Ma'an in 1947. He graduated with a degree in accounting and management from Beirut Arab University. He worked for Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. He was twice elected as the president of the Beirut Arab University Alumni Association.

Taha 'Ali Mutlaq al-Habahibah (Independent)
Ma'an District
Born in al-Shawbak in 1944, he obtained an M.A. in Arabic. He worked for programming at Jordan Television.

Badr Salih Muhammad al-Riyati (IAF)
Ma'an District
Born in Beersheba in 1947, he studied at al-'Aqabah schools and graduated from Damascus University with an accounting degree in 1972. He worked at the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Purchases Department. He was a mosque preacher in al'Aqabah since 1973.

Nawwaf Sa'ud Faris al-Qadi (Independent)
Northern Bedouins
Born in al-Hasa District in 1923, he served in the Jordanian Armed Forces since 1951 and left the service in 1959. In 1963 he served with the Public Security Department in Hebron. He became director of police departments in Nabulus, Ma'an, al-Salt and al- Karak. In 1975, he served as assistant to the Public Security Department director. He retired as brigadier. He was a member of the Senate.

Fawwaz Mahmud Miflih al-Faqir al-Zu'bi (Independent)
Al-Ramtha District
Born in al-Ramtha in 1956, he finished school in al-Ramtha and has worked in business. He was elected mayor of al-Ramtha twice and is a member of the Queen 'Alya' Fund for Social Development.

Ratib Salamah Ibrahim al-Sa'ud (Independent)
Al-Tafilah District
Born in al-Tafileh in 1955, he obtained a B.A. from the University of Jordan, and an M.A. and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. His field of study was education. He worked as a teacher for seven years for the Ministry of Education then at Mu'tah University.

Muhammad 'Awdah Hasan Injjadat (Independent)
Southern Bedouins
Born in al-'Aqabah in 1939, he served in the Armed Forces, and holds an M.S. in military sciences. He retired at the rank of major-general and worked at the office of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan.

Fayyad Fawzi Jarrar (Independent)
Al-Zarqa' District
Born in Janin in 1944, he finished his schooling and served in several posts. He was a member of the 10th Lower House of Parliament.

Anwar al-Hadid (Independent)
Fourth District
Born in Amman in 1940, he finished his schooling in the capital and in Beirut. He worked for the ministry of municipal and rural affairs. He was elected mayor of al-Quwaysimah and al-Juwayyidah towns in the early 1980's.

Khalid 'Abd-al-Nabi Matar al-Ajarimah (Independent)
Fifth District
Born in Madaba 1933 he obtained a B.A. in military science and worked for the Amred Forces and reached the rank of major-general before retiring. He was a member of the National Consultative Council.

'Abd Musa al-Nahar al-Bakhit (Independent)
Fifth District
Born in Wadi al-Sir in 1933, he obtained his diploma in civil engineering from Belgrade University in 1962. He worked for the Ministry of Public Works. He also worked in Saudi Arabia in the private sector. He has written several articles which were published in local newpapers and magazines.

Dhib 'Abdallah Hamid Khattab (Independent)
First District, Amman
Born in Amman in 1948, he finished his secondary school in 1966, obtained a B.Sc. in medicine form Cairo University and served at the Royal Medical Services. He obtained a diploma in paediatrics from Great Britain in 1985 and has been in private practice in al-Hashimi al-Shamali.

'Hardline' Islamists Released From Detention

JN1511104793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 93 p 10

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman—Several hardline Islamists held on suspicion of subversion and illegal political activities have been released after several months of detention, one of the released detainees said Sunday.

Eight or nine suspects were released in the course of the last two weeks, and two members of the Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami (Islamic Liberation Party—ILP) were freed Saturday afternoon from the General Intelligence Department, said 'Ata Abu-al-Rashtah, a spokesman for the ILP who was arrested in May.

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah said he and party activist Bakr al-Khawalidah were released together. He said he believed other ILP members, detained in a period of three months after he and Mr. al-Khawalidah were arrested, remained in custody.

"I am not sure how many are held since my information is sketchy since I was released only yesterday," Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah told the Jordan Times "but the information available to me indicates that at least eight of our members are still in detention."

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah and Mr. al-Khawalidah were arrested in the third week of May, more than one month after a group of students of the Mu'tah University in the

south and several Hizb al-Tahrir activists were rounded up on charges of plotting to assassinate the King during a June 26 graduation ceremony at the university.

"It was proved to our interrogators we had no links to any plot or action against the Jordanian government," Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah told the JORDAN TIMES.

"We were detained apparently because our organisation was not licensed under Jordanian laws and regulations."

Ten people, five of them Mu'tah students, another ex-student and four others—two of them in absentia—are being tried at the State Security Court charged with "plotting against the life of" King Husayn, and conspiracy to rewrite the constitution through violent means.

They are also charged with belonging to an organisation which is not legalised under the Kingdom's laws. All of them have pleaded not guilty and the defense is presenting its case to the court.

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah and Mr. al-Khawalidah were not charged in the case, but they were called as witnesses for the defence while in detention at the General Intelligence Department.

Both of them testified that they knew nothing of the assassination plot and that they were being held for illegal political activities.

They admitted that their party ideology called for the establishment of an Islamic caliphate but that they were not planning subversion in Jordan since they felt the Kingdom was not the ideal place to launch an Islamic caliphate.

They told the court that they did not apply for legal recognition for Hizb al-Tahrir al-Islami under the Kingdom's new political parties law enacted last year because the law did not permit any parties to have external links.

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah told the court that Hizb al-Tahrir had relations with many other groups bearing the same name outside Jordan, including Germany, and, as such, it did not want to apply for legalisation in the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Mr. Abu-al-Rashtah said Sunday he was treated well in detention. He and his colleage had told the State Security Court that they were treated well during their detention period. He said he did not know the background of other suspects released in the last two weeks.

2,000 March in Irbid To Protest Election Results

JN1311135993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—About 2,000 people from Irbid Thursday organised a peaceful march to contest results of the parliamentary elections in Irbid District, according to a report in AL-RA'Y daily Friday.

Marchers, who were led by candidates who lost on Nov. 8, chanted slogans contesting results of the elections and called for holding the officials supervising the elections responsible for what they maintained were inaccurate results.

Before the marchers broke up, Hasan al-Tal, a candidate for the 1993 elections and Husni al-Shiyyyab, a former deputy, addressed them. They hailed their "disciplined" protest, saying that it enhances democracy at a time when others are attempting to undermine it.

Dr. al-Shiyyab said: "If they were able to fabricate results of the elections, they would not be able to fabricate your genuine will and convictions.

Some candidates met with Irbid Governor Fayiz al-'Abbadi and briefed him on the reasons that led them to contest results of the elections.

Mr. al-'Abbadi stressed the integrity of the elections and informed the candidates that the Interior minister is ready to listen to their observations and comments.

He voiced the government's readiness to provide any information of figures to any candidate who requests it.

A total of 30 candidatas had earlier met at al-Tall family diwan [meeting place] in Irbid to discuss results of the elections. They drafted a statement contesting the outcome of the vote.

The statement reaffirmed the candidates' allegiance to His Majesty King Husayn and their confidence in his fairness, wisdom and integrity. It cited some of the reasons that made them suspicious of the election results.

They also cited what they saw as conflicting numbers of voters and the order in which names of winners were announced. Saying there were different numbers and different orders.

In addition, the interior minister's answer to a question about the delay in announcing results of the Irbid elections, as one of the reasons behind this contesting of result.

They said the minister attributed the delay to a request by some candidates to redo the vote count.

In this respect, the statement noted, none of the candidates had made such a request.

Candidates agreed to send a cable to King Husayn, explaining their position and why they were contesting the results of the Nov. 8 elections.

Three Centrist Parties Form Lower House Coalition

JN1511115793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 Nov 93 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Three right-of-centre political parties which won eight seats in last week's parliamentary elections have joined hands to form a coalition in the Lower House, party officials said Sunday.

Mijhim al-Khurayshah, secretary-general of the Jordan National Alliance (JNA), said the coalition aimed to broaden its base to have as many as 22 members in the 80-member House by early December.

Jordan's 12th Parliament, elected on Nov. 8, is expected to be called to session on Nov. 23.

The three parties in the coalition, the second known bloc in the House, are the al-Yaqazah Party led by Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah, al-Watan headed by 'Akif al-Fayiz and the JNA. al-Yaqazah and al- Watan won two seats each and the JNA won four in the elections.

In addition, the party for Progress and Justice (PPJ), which did not win any seat is also part of the coalition, Mr. al-Khurayshah told the Jordan Times.

The four parties are members of an alliance called Jordan National Front, formed shortly after the parties were licensed following the enactment of the Political Parties Law in September 1992.

The House coalition will be known as the "JNF Parliamentary bloc."

Al-Yaqazah party deputies-elect are Mr. al-Rawabidah, who won an Irbid seat, and Ibrahim Samarah, who won a al-Ramtha and Bani Kinanah seat.

Al-Watan deputies-elect are founding member Muhammad al-Dhuwayb (Amman's Second District) and Fayyad Jarrar (al-Zarqa').

Both deputy-elects are originally West Bank Jordanians whose electoral base is tribal Palestinian. Mr. al-Dhuwayb belongs to the al-Ta'amirah tribe from the Bethlehem area and Mr. Jarrar was the rural tribal candidate of several Janin clans who have settled in the al-Zarqa' area.

The JNA's deputies-elect are Nawwaf al-Qadi from the Northern Bedouin district, Jamal al-Khurayshah from the Central Bedouin district, Muhammad Injad from the South Bedouin district and Ishaq Farah al-'Uzayzat from the Sixth District of Amman.

Mijhim al-Khurayshah said that the success of the JNA's candidates will encourage other deputies to join and as many as nine deputies-elect have already been approached to join the coalition in Parliament.

If the bloc is successful in enlisting 20 deputies, it is likely to be a reckonable force in Parliament and will have a good chance of getting one of its members elected as House speaker or of securing cabinet posts.

The parties that have been apporached are al-Mustaqbal, the Unionists and the United Arab Democratic Party known by its Arabic acronym Wa'd as well as 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali's al-'Ahd.

None of those four has agreed to the terms of coalition thus far.

Over the next year the JNF hopes to merge into one party. In the meantime, the current party secretaries general will take three- month turns in heading the front. "Then all secretaries-general will resign and a party congress will be held where a united executive committee will be chosen," Mr. al-Khurayshah said.

Royal Decree Promotes Chairman of Joint Chiefs

JN1311180893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] A royal decree has been issued promoting Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, to the rank of general.

Negotiator on Gaza, Gulf of Aqaba Development

JN1411154693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 93 pp 28, 24

[By Hani al-Duwayk]

[Excerpt] Dr. Durayd Mahasinah, director general of the Ports Corporation and a member of the Jordanian delegation to the bilateral and multilateral negotiations with Israel, has said: We favor peace before normalization, not normalization before peace. So far, there is no peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Dr. Mahasinah was answering a question about the Israeli proposal to use the Port of al-'Aqabah in return for allowing Jordanian use of Israeli ports. He gave the answer at an open meeting yesterday that the Jordanian Exporters Society sponsored between exporters and industrialists and Tawfiq Qa'war, head of the Shipping Agencies Union. The director general of the Ports Corporation took part.

As for the impact of the Port of Gaza on the Port of al-'Aqabah and how to deal with this issue, Dr. Mahasinah said: We in Jordan favor Arab integration in all fields. We should be the first to support the construction of Gaza port. We are ready to shoulder many burdens for this, because we think the Port of Gaza complements, rather than competes with, al-'Aqabah port.

He said we must think about the future and how we are going to face it. If there is no hostility in the future, there will be strong competition, especially in the economic and commercial fields. Naval and land transportation are part of this rivalry. He pointed out that the crisis in land transportation should be resolved.

He emphasized the importance of being prepared to face the future and to enable our systems and laws to deal with this strong rivalry.

Dr. Mahasinah said the corporation has paid approximately 5.5 million dinars to improve and modernize the port in order to cope with economic developments and shipping activities. [passage omitted]

Trade Unionist Denies Meeting Israeli Counterpart

JN1411164693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov pp 3, 24

[Text] Amman—Haydar Ibrahim, secretary general of the Palestine Workers Union, has categorically denied that a meeting took place between himself and Hayim Hubberfield, secretary general of Israel's trade union federation, the Histadrut, in Brussels last week.

In statements to AL-DUSTUR, Ibrahim explained that what actually happened was that, after he delivered his speech in which he reviewed the suffering of the workers and people of Palestine and the repression, terror, arrests, and displacement to which they are being subjected by Israeli occupation troops, the secretary general of the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, Anzo Frezo [title and name as published], suggested that he shake hands with Histadrut's secretary general, but he refused to do that or to sit with the Israeli trade unionist.

Haydar Ibrahim said he told the chairman of the session that the businesses set up on Palestinian territory are owned by Histadrut, which participates in the occupation and its abuses of workers rights and freedom.

Mr. Ibrahim called on the Histadrut to refund three billion dollars in deductions from the wages of Palestinian workers. He pointed out that a comprehensive and just peace can only come through the implementation of UN resolutions which provide for the right of return and self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ibrahim goes on: When I refused to shake hands or sit with the Histadrut official, Hayim Hubberfield withdrew from the meeting. Thereupon, Norway's trade union leader pledged $500,000, Denmark's $700,000, and Canada's $30,000 as initial contributions to the Palestine Workers Association in the occupied land.

An Israeli newspaper had said that a meeting was held in Brussels between Haydar Ibrahim and the secretary general of the Histadrut.

King Husayn, Syria's al-Asad Confer by Phone

JN1511213493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone call this evening with His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, in which viewpoints on issues that concern the two countries were exchanged.

Bank Manager Departs for Occupied Territories

NC1511123793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Samir Mahdi, general manager of the Arab Real Estate Bank in Jordan, crossed into the occupied territories via the King Husayn [Allenby] Bridge this morning on a few days' visit to the occupied territories, where he will join a delegation from the bank's board of directors to inspect the bank's five branches in the West Bank and Gaza, which have been closed since 1967.

Speaking before his departure from Amman, Mahdi said that the visit is part of preparations to reopen the closed branches. They will be reopened once the necessary approvals for reopening the closed branches of the banks operating in Jordan have been obtained from the Jordanian Central Bank, he added.

The Arab Real Estate Bank is a 100 percent Egyptian bank whose main office is in Amman and whose branches cover most of the Jordanian cities. It had branches in the West Bank and Gaza until 1967, when they were closed. Mahdi, who is also the head of the club of the Egyptian community in Jordan, is the first Egyptian to cross the King Husayn Bridge into the West Bank since 1967.

King Husayn, U.S. Senator Hold Talks in Amman

JN1511213993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tonight at al-Nadwah Palce, His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Senator David Boren, who arrived from Baghdad this evening. Talks dealt with various regional and international issues and the latest developments in the peace process. Talks also tackled bilateral relations.

Senator Boren hailed the Jordanian democratic march and the efforts of His Majesty King Husayn in entrenching this march and the wise positions of his majesty on various international and regional issues.

He congratulated his majesty on the results of the 8 November parliamentary elections, which were characterized by honesty, freedom, and smoothness.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Prince Talal Bin- Muhammad, the military secretary of his majesty the king.

Senator Boren, U.S. Citizen Depart

JN1611090193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 05:30 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] His majesty the king has received U.S. Senator David Boren, who stopped in Amman from Baghdad en route home last night. Talks tackled various regional and international issues and the latest Middle East peace developments, in addition to bilateral relations. Senator

Boren commended Jordan's democratic endeavors and his majesty's efforts to enhance them as well as the king's wise position vis-a-vis different regional and international matters.

Senator Boren later left Amman, accompanied by an American oilman whom Iraq had freed from jail. Mr. Kenneth Beaty was held for eight months of an eight-year sentence for illegally entering Iraq. Senator Boren helped secure his freedom from Iraq yesterday. An Iraqi statement said President Saddam Husayn had ordered the release in response to a request from Senator Boren and other leading Americans.

Israeli Shelling Reported in South

NC1611071593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reports that the hills east of Kafr Rumman and al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the Lebanese Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah have been coming under mortar and tank bombardment from the occupation forces' positions in al-Zaffatah and al-Dabshah and in the al-Tuhrah hills since 0645 today. There is also medium and large-caliber machine-gun fire. The shelling was still going on at 0730.

[In a related report, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0545 GMT on 16 November adds the following: "Our correspondent in the south reported a short time ago that since 0700 today, the Israeli forces in al-Zaffatah have been intermittently shelling al- Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the area of the army barracks in al- Nabatiyah. Our correspondent added that the shelling reached Kafr Rumman, 'Arab Salim, and the outskirts of Habbush."]

Islamic Resistance Launches Attack

NC1611070093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0627 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The situation in the south flared up noticeably at 0600 today. The Islamic Resistance attacked several Israeli positions and REUTERS reported that a salvo of Katyusha rockets fell on the Lebanese-Israeli border near al-'Udaysah this morning.

The Islamic Resistance attacked seven Israeli positions along the border strip in the western and central sectors at dawn. Clashes took place between the Resistance fighters and the Israeli forces near Bayt Yahun, the 'Alman-al-Shumariyah hills, the Bra'shit hill, al-Qantarah, al-Tayyibah, Tallusah, and Markabah. Resistance sources said they took control of two positions, killing and capturing Israeli soldiers.

An Islamic Resistance statement said that it captured 10 Israeli and South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers.

REUTERS cited Israeli sources as saying that Katyusha rockets fell along the Lebanese-Israeli border this morning, wounding two Israeli soldiers. This is the first rocket attack of its kind since the cease-fire in the south on 1 August.

Israeli artillery later shelled Wadi al-Suluqi and al-Hujayr. The shelling was accompanied by raking with large and medium-caliber weapons. Two helicopters raked the Wadi al-Hujayr using machine guns.

The Israeli shelling of the central sector covered the villages of Haddathah, Bra'shit, Zawtar, Zibqin, al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, al-Suwwanah, Tibnin, Safad al-Battikh, Khirbat Silm, and 'Ayta al-Jabal. Over 200 155-mm shells fell in these areas.

Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Kafr Rumman, and the deserted army barracks have been coming under Israeli artillery and mortar fire since 0700 today. Israeli mechanized movements were mor itored at the al-Dabbshah position.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters have been flying over Tyre, al-Nabatiyah, and Bint Jubayl.

Islamic Resistance Takes Prisoners

NC1611070793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] At 0530 today, groups from the Islamic Resistance launched a large-scale attack on the enemy positions in al-Tayyibah, Markaba, Tallusah, Hula, al-Qantarah, Bra'shit, Haddathah, and Bayt Yahun using machine guns and rockets. Very fierce clashes raged with the garrisons at these positions. The clashes are continuing. Latest information indicates that the mujahidin have seized control of the al-Qantarah and Tallusah positions and taken at least 10 people prisoner, including three corporals and a sergeant. Israeli helicopters could not intervene in the battle while Israeli artillery shelled the villages of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and al-Shumariyah.

The clashes are continuing; the dust of the battle hasn't settled. Information indicates that the enemy is suffering heavy losses.

Hizballah Radio Reports on Fighting

NC1611092293 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Reports from our correspondents in the south indicate that the Islamic Resistance men destroyed an enemy tank in Hula in addition to the tank destroyed in Bra'shit. The reports confirm that six enemy personnel were killed at the Tallusah position, one of the targets of the heroic operation today.

Three Zionist helicopters raided Majdal Silm woods at 0640 today. The house of citizen Ibrahim 'Ala'-al-Din was hit in the shelling. Latest reports from our correspondents in the south say four sergeants, four corporals, and two privates are among the prisoners taken by the Islamic Resistance men.

Independent sources confirmed the Resistance attacks, but did not mention the number of casualties among the occupation forces and Agent ranks. The sources said an Agent tank received a direct hit near Tallusah.

The Zionist shelling of central sector villages has continued since 0915, concentrating on Bra'shit, where several homes were damaged. A shell caused a fire in a house, burning its contents.

The Islamic Resistance attacks caused panic among the enemy ranks. Sirens were sounded north of the occupied territories a few minutes ago and the enemy radio asked the Zionist settlers to go to shelters.

The Islamic Resistance central operations room denied reports by occupation forces sources that Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory on northern occupied Palestine.

Israelis Retake Posts, Close Crossings

NC1611094893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] According to the latest security reports from south Lebanon, the Israeli forces returned to the Tallusah and al-Qantarah posts following a Resistance attack on the two positions and the capture of 10 South Lebanese Army personnel.

Our security correspondent reports that four of the prisoners are sergeants, four corporals, and two privates. The Resistance said one of its men was wounded.

The Israeli forces closed the Bayt Yahun and Jisr al-Hamra' crossings, which link the north of the security belt with the border strip. [passage omitted]

Maximum alert has been declared in the Palestinian camps in the south and camp residents have been asked to be on their fullest guard against possible Israeli attacks. [passage omitted]

Shelling Continues

NC1611102693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Our correspondent in the border area reports that the Israeli helicopters are raking the hills and valleys around the Tallusah position and that two wounded men were taken to Marj 'Uyun Hospital. He adds that particular suspect locations continue to be shelled. The villages of Marjaba' and Mays al-Jabal came under Katyusha shelling.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, who briefed him on the security situation in the south.

Israeli Planes Raid Hizballah Base

NC1611142493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided a Hizballah position in Wadi Janta south east of Ba'labakk, central al-Biqa' at 1530 and 1540 today. The planes were confronted by antiaircraft fire and heavy columns of smoke were seen rising above the targeted position.

Enemy aircraft carried out reconnaissance sorties over Ba'labakk at 1300, drawing antiaircraft fire.

This afternoon, the Resistance distributed photographs of 12 members of the Agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] in Israeli military uniforms, saying it captured them at Tallusah. It also distributed a picture of an Israeli vehicle on fire.

Defense Minister Says Israeli Attacks 'Not Unusual'

NC1611111793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has been following developments in the south today. He received Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul this morning.

In a statement today, the defense minister said the Israeli attacks are not unusual. The occupation forces escalate the situation whenever there is talk about resuming the dialogue or about a visit by an American official to the area. This is designed to foil any effort to achieve a just and balanced peace. He said Washington's supply of sophisticated aircraft to Israel will make it more intransigent.

Army Confiscates Weapons, Ammunition in Searches

NC1511182293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] The Army Command's Guidance Directorate has issued a statement saying that in the past few days, the Army has conducted searches in al-Shuf, upper al-Matn, Kasrawan, Jbayl, and Beirut, resulting in the confiscation of a quantity of weapons and ammunition. These include: Thirty small- and medium-caliber machine guns, dozens of mortar and RPG shells, grenades, dynamite sticks, over 10,000 rounds of ammunition, and miscellaneous military hardware.

Al-Hariri Returns From Saudi Arabia

NC1611071693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut last night from a private visit to Saudi Arabia.

Vice President Queried on Peace Process, U.S. Ties

JN1611074993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has not weakened Syria or Lebanon but has weakened the party that signed it. The vice president emphasized the importance of serious coordination among the Arab parties to give credibility to any agreement that could be concluded with Israel. He said that coordination with Syria is a source of strength for the Arab parties because a strong Syrian position depends on Syria's strength and because Syria wages the struggle based on its own potential and capabilities.

In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that Syria has no doubts about the Lebanese brothers, who know very well that their interests are protected through cooperation with Syria.

On Syria's concept of peace, the Syrian vice president said that this concept is outlined in the UN Charter, as the issue of withdrawal is the basis for peace.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said that the Israeli security arguments are mere pretexts because the Arabs are the ones in need of security since it is they who are the victims, rather than the opposite. Khaddam said Israel is like the thief who refuses to go to court, hoping his crime will be settled outside the court because his chances will be better away from legitimacy and the law.

Regarding the possibility of Syria participating in the multilateral talks, Khaddam denied any possibility of Syria participating in these negotiations.

Asked about the possibility of Jordan reaching an agreement similar to the Oslo agreement, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stressed that a comprehensive solution is the appropriate formula. He said he hopes the Arab brothers would realize that separate agreements only guarantee Israeli interests, and that departure from the Madrid formula is a big trap in which this or that Arab party could become ensnared.

The vice president said that Syria has a clear policy and it is not of those countries which submit to pressure or blackmail. Khaddam denied reports that a Syrian-Israeli agreement could materialize before the end of this year.

Concerning relations between Syria and the United States, the vice president said they are better than in the past. As for Syria's being placed on the terrorism list although the U.S. side has been unable to produce a shred of evidence against Syria, this issue, according to Khaddam, changes nothing for Syria and has no impact on its interests.

Khaddam: 'Arafat Fell Into Gaza-Jericho 'Trap'

JN1511162993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Addressing a group of foreign journalists in Damascus, Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said: By signing the 13 September agreement with Israel, Yasir 'Arafat has fallen in a big trap. He added: It is a problem to ignore the 4 million Palestinian refugees who live outside Gaza and Jericho. We can say that the Gaza-Jericho agreement is a problem that will produce other problems. Khaddam said: The best solution to the problem of the refugees is to implement the UN resolutions.

Salman on Peace, U.S. Role

JN1311150293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has emphasized Syria's commitment to the terms of reference of the Madrid conference on reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

This morning, while receiving the delegation of the Foreign Correspondents Society in Cairo, he said Israel is still evading the peace requisites, and is trying to forge deals separate from the U.S. initiative which considers Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis of reaching just and comprehensive peace in the region.

He added that the Oslo agreement is a violation of Arab coordination, the Washington talks, and the terms of reference of Madrid conference.

On the U.S. role in the peace process, the minister said the previous and current U.S. Administrations are serious about reaching a comprehensive peace, and the U.S. Administration is able to influence Israel in order to implement the resolutions of the international legitimacy, because the collapse the peace process means a return to explosive situation in the region and destruction of the U.S. initiative itself.

Dr. Salman added that President Clinton has emphasized, during two recent telephone contacts with President Hafiz al-Asad and in more than one statement, the U.S. commitment to a comprehensive peace and the importance of Syria's role in the peace process. Mr. Christopher and other U.S. officials also stressed the U.S. desire to play the role of full partner in the peace process.

On the Jordanian position, the information minister said His Majesty King Husayn has recently stated that Jordan is committed to a comprehensive settlement, and that Jordan will not sign any separate agreement.

On relations with Egypt, the minister said President Husni Mubarak has strong relations with his brother President al-Asad, and they coordinate efforts toward realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region, and President Mubarak has repeatedly stressed that peace will not be real without Syria or if it does not include all tracks.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Chief, Delegation Visit

Talas, Reza'i Discuss 'Friendly Ties'

JN1411195593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and deputy prime minister and defense minister, this evening received Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and his delegation. Lt. Gen. Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff; and Lt. Gen. 'Ali Aslan, his deputy; along with top officers of the General Command and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

They talked about the state of cooperative and friendly ties between the Syrian Arab Army and the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards, and explored ways to develop these relations in the best interest of the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

Reza'i, Palestinian Opposition Leaders Meet

LD1611112993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Major General Mohsen Reza'i, the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], met in Damascus last night with the leaders of the 10 Palestinian groups opposed to the 'Arafat-Israel accord. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Beirut, at these meetings [as heard] actions taken by the 10 Palestinian groups to defeat the 'Arafat-Israel accord, the formation of a united Palestinian front to confront the compromising plans, and the plight of Palestinians in the occupied territories were the subjects of discussions and exchange of views.

The IRGC commander in chief arrived in Damascus at the head of a delegation last Sunday [14 November].

Radio Warns Against Canceling Arab Boycott

JN0811154793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Israel has not hidden the fact that its first and foremost concern is securing enough time to implement this agreement. At the same time, Israel is seeking to reap the benefits of this agreement from the Arabs. Such benefits include canceling the Arab countries' economic boycott, opening possibilities for economic cooperation, and so forth.

In other words, Israel has clearly shown the its concern at this stage is to receive payment from the Arabs for the separate Gaza-Jericho deal before taking any other step toward the comprehensive peace that is sought by the Arabs and the international community. Moreover, Israeli officials went to the point of portraying themselves as if, through the Gaza-Jericho agreement—which did not really restore any of the Palestinians' rights, they met some people's demand for relief from an excruciating headache called the Palestinian issue. Those Israeli officials even went so far as to urge certain Arab countries to open their coffers to finance development projects that will be implemented based on the Gaza-Jericho agreement in order to develop the economy of their brothers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under Israeli economic hegemony.

The Israelis continue to reiterate that these Arab countries can be reassured that the financial aid they will offer to their Arab brothers will entrench the solution to the Palestinian problem based on the Oslo agreement and that there will be no more cause for those Arabs to worry about this problem.

From this premise comes the link between Israel's demand to freeze the peace process, which is aimed at achieving a comprehensive solution, and its insistence on a period of time to entrench the Oslo agreement on the ground and reap its gains through normalization and economic and financial cooperation with the Arabs.

Israel considers normalization and the cancellation of the Arab economic boycott a pressing issue that cannot be postponed in order to receive the flow of Arab money and aid necessary to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement and strengthen its base.

It is clear that Israeli falsehood lies in giving the impression that Israel is not the only one benefiting from normalization and the end of the Arab boycott, that it will benefit the Arabs as well. Indeed, through their insistence on these two demands, the Israelis are giving the impression that they are truly concerned about the Palestinians, who are in need of their brothers' assistance until they can achieve what Israeli will grant them within the framework of the self-rule plan. Israel wants to hide the fact that any single penny entering the West bank and the Gaza Strip enters under Israeli economic hegemony on all economic, development, and monetary affairs and that the various so-called cooperation projects will only serve the Israeli economy and entrench Israeli economic hegemony and Palestinian subservience.

This clearly means that any Arab party that ends the economic boycott and normalizes its relations with Israel before a comprehensive peace in the region is achieved, before all Palestinian and Arab rights are restored, and before all the occupied Arab territories are liberated, will be serving Israel in imposing its economic, political, and military hegemony on the Arabs and in continuing the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories.

From this premise, the Arab boycott is an important weapon in restoring Arab rights and territories to which we must adhere. Whoever relinquishes this weapon will open the door wide for Israeli hegemony and dominance in the Arab region, on its fate, and on its resources.

Commentary Explains Lack of Progress in Peace Talks

JN1211154193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1243 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has made statements to the Israeli press revealing the causes behind Israel's procrastination. This procrastination is meant to preclude progress in peace talks with Syria and hinder efforts to achieve comprehensive peace. These statements unequivocally show Israel's motives for concluding separate deals with Arab parties. Israel wants these deals to be tailored to suit its own interests in terms of form, content, and timing. The Israeli press has quoted Peres as saying a peace agreement with Syria will be delayed because Israel is still not ready to return territories. In this statement, Peres clearly acknowledges that all the accusations and fabrications Israel promoted against Syria in order to hold it responsible for any obstruction in the peace talks were part of a deception campaign. The problem, then, has nothing to do with the kind of peace Syria is offering, which Israel used as an excuse to preclude progress in the peace talks with Syria. As a matter of fact, the problem lies in Israel's unwillingness to withdraw from all or some of the territories it is occupying. In a nutshell, Peres is giving credence to the position Syria has repeatedly voiced, that is, that Israel is opposed to peace, because it is unwilling to meet the requirements of peace.

It goes without saying that Peres would not have made this fact public had not all the Israeli gimmicks and maneuvers failed. Israel's efforts to misrepresent the Syrian position have been frustrated. Israel sought to keep Syria out of the negotiating process by using various excuses and pretexts. It also sought to drag Syria into secret negotiations outside the Madrid formula, or to neutralize its role in the face of the clear and deliberate Israeli obstruction of efforts to achieve comprehensive peace.

The statement by Peres, which was aired by Israeli press and radio stations, confirms the veracity of the statements made by Syria, that is, that the bilateral peace talks in Washington have failed to make any progress throughout the past 20 months due to Israel's failure to commit itself clearly to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The Yitzhaq Rabin government, which succeeded Shamir's government and promised to achieve peace on the basis of the land-for-peace formula, has, as a matter of fact, acted in line with the Shamir government policy line, which sought to achieve peace in exchange for peace, that is, without ceding the Arab territories Israel occupied in 1967.

The new admission by Peres confirms this fact. Moreover, daily Israeli practices have lent credence to this argument despite Israeli attempts at deception. For, we recently heard statements by Palestinian officials at the end of the last round of the Taba negotiations that Israel does not want to withdraw its troops from Gaza and Jericho, but rather to reorganize its occupation of these two areas. This is additional proof of this fact. The same argument holds true for Israel's efforts to conclude partial solutions and separate deals so it can avoid ceding any of the Arab territories it is occupying or the Arab rights it is usurping.

In any case, Syria will continue to adhere to Arab rights and territories. Syria will continue its efforts to regain all these rights and territories through the peace process, in accordance with the Madrid formula, and on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy to achieve comprehensive and just peace. Moreover, the honest Syrian position vis-a-vis true peace will remain a thorn in Israel's side, exposing its false claims about peace and thwarting its efforts to reap the fruits of peace without meeting its requirements.

Afghanistan

Hezb-e Eslami Rockets Hit Kabul 15 Nov

LD1611114193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The northeastern district of Kabul was hit by several rockets yesterday. According to a Central News Unit dispatch from Kabul, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Defense Ministry announced: These rockets were fired from Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] positions and killed or injured a number of people.

On the basis of this report, battles continue in the Tagab and Nejrab regions. The government forces, in the course of an offensive, forced the Hezb-e Eslami forces to retreat 15 km from Nejrab.

Battle also continues northeast of Kabul between the National Islamic Movement forces and Hezb-e Eslami. Fighter bombers from the Bagram air base continue their heavy bombing of the Hezb-e Eslami forces. Casualty figures of these clashes are unavailable.

'Hundreds' of Pro-Iranian Soldiers Enter Kabul

BK1611125293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Kabul, Nov 16 (AFP) - Hundreds of heavily armed pro- Iranian Wahdat Shiite soldiers entered the center of Kabul Tuesday, an event that could signify a decisive shift in alliances between Afghan factions battling for power.

More than 1,000 men—carrying heavy machine guns, rocket launchers and light arms—crossed the city's center to its airport to meet members of the group's central committee arriving from the central Afghan city of Bamyan.

The Wahdat—which has its headquarters west of the capital—travelled in a convoy of some 100 vehicles decorated with portraits of the Ayatollah Khomeini and Wahdat chief 'Abdol Ali Mazari.

It was the first time the Wahdat has entered the Afghan capital since the rule of former president Najibollah and the subsequent control of Kabul by troops loyal to former defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, with whom the Shiite faction has been fighting over the past few months.

The arrival of the Wahdat comes after heavy fighting over the past fortnight between forces loyal to Mas'ud and the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction of Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar—currently allied with the Wahdat—in the Tagab valley east of Kabul.

Baba Jan, a former communist general fighting the Hezb-e Eslami in Tagab alongside Mas'ud's forces, was present at the airport to meet the Wahdat officials.

"We were enemies, now we are making peace, that's the tradition of Afghanistan," he said.

If the defection of Wahdat is confirmed, it would be a major rebuff to Hekmatyar, who no longer has strong allies with which to fight Mas'ud.

The Hezb-e Eslami and Wahdat formed an informal alliance at the beginning of the year and have fought side by side against Mas'ud and troops loyal to Baba Jan during heavy fighting in Kabul from February to March and in May.

Meanwhile, fighting continued Tuesday in the Tagab valley where both sides claimed to have the edge.

The Defence Ministry said it would only accept a cease-fire proposed by Hekmatyar on two conditions: the withdrawal of arms from Sarobi and Naghlu dam—Hezb bastions east of Kabul—and a Hezb commitment to keep the strategic road open that links Kabul with Pakistan.

There has been no halt in the fighting and as a result no resolution of the two main problems facing the people of Kabul: constant power cuts by the Hezb from Naghlu and frequent barricades on the Kabul-Jalalabad road, said Khan Mohamad, a senior Defence Ministry official.

Planeload of Iranian Relief Supplies Arrives

LD1511151493 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 15, IRNA—An Air Force plane loaded with relief supply donated by Iranian Muslims arrived here Monday and was received by Afghan officials.

The supply included medical aid, foodstuffs, blankets, stationary and textbooks.

Another plane transported the Iranian people's relief aid to war stricken people of Mazarsharif early this week.

India

Hazratbal Occupants Surrender to Authorities

BK1611012093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the month-long Hazratbal Shrine tangle is over. Sixty-five persons who were holed up inside the shrine came out and gave themselves up to the law a short while ago. The director general of state police, Mr. Mahender Sabharwal told our Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh that the first person from inside the shrine came out at 2.20 a.m. and he was followed by others. Senior officers including the security advisor, Lieutenant General D. Saklani; additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman; and the corps commander, Lieutenant General S. Padmanabhanan, were present. A group of ulemas and some other members of Muslim Waqf Trust went inside the shrine and certified

that the holy shrine as well as the holy relic of the Prophet Muhammad are safe.

The director general of police also told our correspondent that a large quantity of sophisticated weapons and explosives have been siezed. All the persons who came out of the shrine have been handed over to the Jammu and Kashmir police for screening.

Rao Welcomes End of Siege

BK1611034293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Reacting to the development [in which occupants of the Hazratbal shrine surrendered to authorities], the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, expressed satisfaction. He said, it is heartening to know that a better sense has prevailed on them.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Farooqi, described it as a good development and said that this reflected the patient and careful handling of the situation.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] spokesman, Mr. Prakash Karat, said that the development will be welcomed by all sections of the people. He said the strategy of wearing out the militants has paid off.

The National Conference leader, Professor Saifuddin Soze, expressed relief at the end of the Hazratbal tangle.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] spokesman, Mr. J.P. Mathur, has said that the militants should not be allowed to get away and they must face the consequences of their action.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has said that this is one of the happy news of the year. He said the policy of the government of tiring out the militants has paid off.

Mr. Shahabuddin—Janata Dal leader, complimented the security forces for the restraint shown by them in dealing with the tangle. He was happy that the militants have shown good sense and surrendered to the authorities.

Army Handling of Siege Praised

BK1611050493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Commentary by S.C. Bhatt]

[Text] Exactly a month after the Kashmiri militants and their friends from Pakistan were holed up inside the holy Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar they have surrendered themselves to the law. Even before the people in the valley and the rest of India have come out of their beds on this early winter morning, the militants came out of the sacred place and gave themselves up. That all this was achieved without a shot being fired thus gave credit to the armed forces who spent a whole month out in the cold. With great patience and undying faith in India's just stand, the negotiators kept at the job of talking to the militants. From the outset, the mandate given to the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and the state administration, as well as, the negotiators, was clear—the sanctity of the shrine must be protected, while the militants were made to come out and surrender their arms and themselves.

It has been a terrible time for those men and the nation as a whole. Many people were getting impatient and were wondering why the sacred place was not being cleared in the same manner in which the Saudis had forcibly cleared the holy place in Kaaba some years ago. Holy places are meant for worship not for sheltering armed militants who kill innocent people in the name of fighting for some cause. The men, holed up inside the shrine, got a lot of sympathy and support from within the country and, of course, from Pakistan. In the name of human rights and the welfare of the unfortunate worshippers who got trapped while the militants were sourrounded, a lot of verbal and other help was extended to the militants which naturally boosted their morale.

But the armed forces and the negotiators stood firm although there was much wavering at times and there were even suggestions that the militants may be given a safe passage to their sanctuary in Pakistan. The spirit of India triumphed in the end. In the last few days, it became clear that the morale of the militants inside the shrine had reached a low ebb. They were no longer able to carry on despite the pressure on them from their Pakistani mentors. There are many important lessons here. We have to learn to be firm while adhering to the Indian tradition of fairness, compassion, and humanness. But there can be no compromise with national interests whatever the misguided and not so misguided elements within the country may say. It has been proved to the fundamentalists of all hues that sacred places will not be allowed to be misused for militancy. The government must also keep its promise of being fair and just to the people who have surrendered.

Iran To Open New Trade Route for Indian Exports

BK1511105193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Iran is to open a new trade route for the export of Indian goods to the Central Asian republics and European countries. This will be shorter and less expensive than the traditional Black Sea route. Under an agreement signed in Tehran, India agreed to assist Iran in developing rail and road transport facilities for the purpose and to patronize it. An official release in New Delhi said the prospects of India participating in several rail projects in Iran are now bright.

Spokesman on Leaders' Talks With UK's Hurd

BK1511165493 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1525 GMT 15 Nov 93

["Spokesman's Statement" on 15 November]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the foreign secretary of UK, Douglas Hurd. The meeting lasted around 45 minutes. [Words indistinct] aspects of bilateral relations. They also discussed regional issues pertaining to South Asia, particularly India- Pakistan relations. International issues of mutual interest were also discussed, including the situation in Europe, and especially the situation in Russia.

Both expressed satisfaction at the structured dialogue that had concretised after Hurd's previous visit in January 1992. This dialogue had resulted in great benefit to bilateral relations, which were now extremely active in a large number of areas.

The Indo-British partnership initiative, launched in January 1993, in the course of the visit of the British prime minister, John Major, had produced excellent results. Bilateral trade as well as UK investment in India had risen sharply. (Note: In the first 8 months of 1993, the total of UK's investment in India was five times higher than the total investment from the UK that came in the whole of 1992, as a result of which UK is today the second largest investor from fifth position earlier).

Both expressed great satisfaction that the instruments of ratification for the extradition treaty between the two countries were to be exchanged during this visit. Hurd emphasised the Uk's keenness to conclude a bilateral investment guarantee agreement to boost investors' confidence. Dinesh Singh informed Hurd that a policy decision had already been taken to sign such an agreement with the UK and details would be worked out.

Hurd indicated that the UK fully understood India's concern regarding terrorism, as the UK itself was a target of terrorism. Dinesh Singh conveyed to Hurd that India had completed all the formalities and was in a position to implement speedily the Indo-UK confiscation agreement. Hurd said they would very shortly be completing their procedures also to bring this into effect.

He stressed that all countries should be more resolute against this menace. Both ministers agreed that India and UK would consider concluding an agreement on transfer of sentenced prisoners.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Hurd conveyed that their position continued to be to encourage bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan under the aegis of the Simla Agreement. The UK wanted to see the initiation of the political process on J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] as well as an end to armed interference from outside. The UK would continue to hold this position.

Dinesh Singh reiterated India's rejection of Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the situation. He also noted that Pakistan was now raising pre-conditions for starting a dialogue with India. Our own position remains very clear—we are for a comprehensive bilateral dialogue with Pakistan on all substantive issues, including J and K, as had been clearly mentioned in our prime minister's congratulatory letter to the Pakistani prime minister, Mrs. Bhutto, sent to her immediately after her re-election.

After the talks with Dinesh Singh, an agreement was signed by the British high commissioner and our finance secretary for a Pound 60 million grant for projects in the area of environmental development.

Douglas Hurd met the home minister S.B. Chavan who conveyed an assessment of the ground situation prevailing at the Hazratbal shrine and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir overall. He also informed him about the initiatives taken by the government to commence the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. He referred to the problems that were created in resolving this situation by the external support to terrorists in Kashmir.

Hurd mentioned that the UK Government greatly welcomed the initiatives taken by the Government of India in the area of human rights. The two ministers also had a discussion on the powers of the national human rights commission and the various provisions of the legislation under which this commission will function. The home minister expressed his appreciation at the stand of the UK as it had emerged at the recent debates in the UK parliament on the ratification of the extradition treaty with India.

Hurd Urges Solution to Kashmir Issue

BK1611040293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The visiting British foreign minister, Mr. Douglas Hurd, called on the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, yesterday and held discussions on Indo-Pak relations and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. The nuclear nonproliferation treaty and the prospects of economic cooperation between the two countries came up for discussion during their 30-minute meeting.

Earlier, answering questions after delivering a talk in New Delhi, the British foreign minister said that an early solution to the Kashmir issue has to be found through a genuine political discussion between India and Pakistan under the Simla agreement. Mr. Hurd said Britain has always opposed any outside help to militant activities.

Mr. Hurd is visiting Bombay today to sign an agreement on Indo- British cooperation in trade and industry. Mr. Hurd said his visit to Bombay will help in strengthening such cooperation and hasten British investments in India.

Iran

Iraqi Minister Postpones Visit 'Indefinitely'

NC1611103993 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 16 (AFP)—Iraq has postponed a visit by a senior official in apparent protest at a U.N.

mission here probing Baghdad's alleged use of chemical weapons against Shiite Muslims, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tuesday's [16 November] TEHRAN TIMES.

Velayati said Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal had indefinitely put off his trip to Iran, which was due to begin Friday.

Al-Faysal's visit to Iran was announced at the end of a visit to Baghdad last month by his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The two countries were expected to continue discussions on improving bilateral ties and the fate of thousands of POWs still imprisoned in Iran and Iraq after their 1980-1988 war.

"I believe they (the Iraqi minister and his delegation) did not come here because of the presence of the U.N. chemical experts in Iran," Velayati told the English-language daily.

"But this has nothing to do with us. The United Nations has taken a right step and Iran cannot object to that," he added.

The minister said however that Iran would welcome the Iraqi delegation if they decided to visit Iran in the near future.

A team of U.N. experts arrived here Sunday to investigate reports of the Iraqi army's alleged chemical attacks on Shiite Muslims in the southern marshlands.

The 10-member team of weapons experts and physicians left Tuesday for a border area in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province to question witnesses and conduct tests.

An Iraqi opposition group based in Iran has accused the Iraqi army of carrying out chemical attacks against the Shiite population in the marshlands since last October. Baghdad has repeatedly denied the charges.

Daily Expresses 'Regret'

LD1611115993 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 16, IRNA—A morning daily here Tuesday [16 November] said the postponement of the visit to Iran of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary would serve no purpose but only delay the settlement of difficulties in the relations between the two countries.

Commenting on the postponement of Sa'd 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Faysal's Friday visit to Tehran for undeclared reasons, 'TEHRAN TIMES' wrote that Iraq postponed the visit as a sign of protest to the recent trip of a UN delegation to Iran to conduct investigations over the alleged Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons against the Shi'ite population in southern regions of that country.

"If that interpretation is valid, then we can only express regret at Iraq's inability to learn anything from the disastrous political and military mistakes of the past decade," it added. Even if Iran had invited the delegation, the paper wrote, Iraq could not complain, because Bag [item incomplete as received]

Editorial Previews Iraqi Official's Visit to New York

LD1511110393 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 15, IRNA—An English daily Monday [15 November] commented on the scheduled visit to New York of the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq 'Aziz, and said he is to ask the same Western powers that abetted Baghdad against Tehran to now lift the embargo on Iraq and let it sell its oil.

"Although the issue of the oil embargo technically is separate from others, in reality there is a linkage," wrote 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its editorial adding, "the suspicion of a gas atttack on Shi'ites could derail progress towards lifting the oil embargo and other sanctions.

A U.N. special commission on eliminating Iraq's terror weapons is investigating charges that the Iraqi Army recently used poison gas against Shi'ites, both opponents and civilians.

The daily referred to the recent statements made by the British envoy David Hannay at the U.N. who admitted that the United Nations "was not able to achieve for civilians in Iraq as much protection as they have right to hope for under the U.N. Charter and various agreements with Iraq."

Turning to the prosperous status of Iran and Iraq before the imposed war and the legends about reserves of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia the daily said, "what Mr. Hannay did not say is how successful the big Western powers, under the umbrella of the Security Council, have been in absorbing and/or destroying the wealth of regional nations."

Sudanese Speaker Khalifah Visits Iran, Meets Officials

Arrives in Tehran

LD1211162093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Nov 93

[Text] Sudanese National Assembly Speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah arrived in Tehran today at the invitation of Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri. He was welcomed at Mehrabad airport by the Majles speaker.

On his arrival in Tehran, the speaker of the Sudanese parliament gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent about the numerous common denominators of the

two countries. He said Islam is the most important bond between Iran and Sudan. He said the two countries have common viewpoints on international and strategic issues.

In the same interview, Mr. Nateq-Nuri told our correspondent:

[Begin Nateq-Nuri recording] As you know, Sudan is important to us from various standpoints. Its geographic position is of strategic value. In fact, it borders on six African countries. It is a revolutionary country. Just like ourselves, they are particular about implementing every Islamic precept there. We have many common denominators, both in terms of religion and sect. We must exchange views on implementing Islamic precepts and transferring our experiences to each other.

Internationally, too, we have common enemies. The same accusations and allegations of fundamentalism and Islamism leveled at us concerning the implementation of Islam and Islamic tenets—or violation of human rights, or such—are leveled at Sudan, because they implement Islamic precepts. [end recording]

[Announcer] The Majles speaker referred to the economic ties between the two countries. He said we will hold talks with the Sudanese National Assembly speaker about friendly parliamentary groups of the two countries and the expansion of parliamentary relations.

Discusses Islamic Laws, U.S.

LD1311144093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, head of the elected Sudanese Majlis, today met with Mr. Nateq-Nuri, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles]. Referring to bilateral cooperation in various fields, he expressed the hope that his visit to Tehran will strengthen these relations and will be the source of blessings and benefit to the two countries.

Describing the reasons for the U.S. hostility toward Sudan, he emphasized that the present trend of implementing Islamic laws in his country is continuing.

Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran is anxious to create unity among Islamic countries, Mr. Nateq-Nuri said Sudan enjoys the highest priority among those countries due to its affinity with Iran in implementing Islamic laws. He pointed out that, despite all the pressures exerted by domineering powers, especially the United States, Iran will continue its path in trying to establish unity of expression among all the Muslims of the world.

Referring to the occupation of the Den of Espionage [U.S. Embassy in Tehran] by Muslim students, he emphasized: That action shattered the myth of U.S. invincibility, which world arrogance was trying to inject into the minds of the world's nations. The United States was not able to make up for its defeat, despite hatching and implementing various conspiracies, including an eight-year-long imposed war [Iran-Iraq war].

The Majles speaker added: In the field of reconstruction too, not even one-hundredth of the works in the rebuilding of the infrastructure that have been implemented by the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in the few years after the war was carried out during the 50 years of the rule of the Pahlavis.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1411114393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received a high-ranking Sudanese parliamentary delegation led by Sudan's National Assembly speaker Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah.

During the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed Islam a most essential factor in strengthening cordiality and friendship between authorities and the people. He said: Reliance on the supreme edicts of Islam, adopting independence-seeking stances, and rejecting foreign domination have become factors in the spiritual bond between the people and authorities in Sudan and Iran. [passage omitted]

The president considered the accusations of terrorism and fundamentalism leveled by the world arrogance against the independent-seeking Islamic states to be blatant and futile lies and said: The reiteration of such words has even resulted in the peoples of those countries not believing the statements of their own statesmen and considering those statements meaningless and malicious.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the Koran as a factor for unity and solidarity of Muslim nations and, thanking the Sudanese authorities for their cultural move in teaching that divine book and its memorization to the young, said: The Koran is a constructive book and a strong bond for the hearts of all Muslims. If all Muslim countries resort to the koran they will no longer have any need of foreigners.

In conclusion, the president welcomed the expansion of cooperation between the two Muslim and fraternal countries of Islam and Sudan.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Sudanese National Assembly Speaker, expressing the appreciation and gratitude of the Sudanese Government and nation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's support, described the objectives of his visit to Tehran to be deepening bilateral cooperation, and offering the sincere greetings, cordial sentiments, and affection of the Sudanese authorities and nation toward the Government and nation of Iran.

Assessing Sudan's cultural, social, and economic developments, he said: At the moment, the teaching of ideological principles and Islamic edicts is being pursued seriously even at university level, and our youth are

trying, through learning and memorizing the verses of the holy Koran, to act out the divine book and be disseminators of the holy religion of Islam in the region.

Stressing the need to strengthen Sudan's ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudanese National assembly Speaker, addressing Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said: Cooperation between Iran and Sudan, especially after your historical visit to our country, has entered a new phase. We hope to witness a deepening of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Comments on U.S. 'Animosity'

LD1411170593 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—The visiting Sudanese parliament speaker, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said here today that the baseless charges levelled against his country by the U.S. proved Washington's animosity towards the Sudanese Muslims.

In an interview with IRNA, he said the U.S. placed his country in the list of the countries sponsoring terrorism and alleged that the Islamic Republic of Iran was sending weapons to Somalia through Sudan. These are parts of a propaganda campaign and psychological warfare waged by Western media to distance the Islamic Republic of Iran from Sudan, he said.

He said that Washington accuses Sudan of setting up military camps to train Islamic revolutionaries from Egypt and Algeria, whereas, the two countries officials admitted that the situation in Egypt and Algeria had nothing to do with Sudan.

Referring to U.S. conspiracies against Sudan, Khalifah said that Washington was willing to divide his country into two northern and southern parts under the pretext of establishing so-called safe zones in the south. He added that the plot was doomed because the Muslim population in the south is larger than Christians and other minorities and that the majority oppose such a division in the country.

Khalifah appealed to the Muslims around the world to unite and exercise vigilance in order to counter the U.S. conspiracies against them.

Received by Khamene'i

LD1511171093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution received Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly, and his entourage this morning. The meeting was also attended by Majles Speaker Hojjat Ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri.

After listening to remarks made by the Sudanese parliamentary speaker, the esteemed leader described as important the supportive role of the people of Sudan for their country's government in resisting their enemies. He said: On account of its geographic and political position, Sudan's situation is sensitive because it can easily establish contact with the Arab region, which is a large portion of the world. That important factor, together with other factors, has resulted in world arrogance paying particular attention to Sudan. The Sudanese Government, however, which has deep roots in its Muslim nation and relies on the people, continues its course toward Islamic goals, firmly, steadfastly, and persistently, despite confrontation with numerous enemies. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described military, economic, cultural, and political pressure as tools of arrogant powers in the confrontation against independent nations and governments. He said: The enemies of the Islamic revolution, namely America, have used their various tools against the Iranian nation. And today, too, they have imposed a heavy blockade—which is intensifying—on Iran, and by using very cunning methods they are continuing their cultural war as vigorously as ever. However, despite all the plots, the Iranian nation is stronger today than 10 years ago and has more optimism and trust in its strength. The enemy plots have all been exposed to us. The esteemed leader said that creating despondency among the people and officials is the enemy's biggest weapon. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader stressed that it is necessary for the Sudanese Government to pay attention to the means and ploys of world arrogance in the confrontation with independent countries. [passage omitted]

Speaking first at the meeting, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah expressed his joy at meeting the custodian of the order of Muslims. He said: The Sudanese people's revolution has been inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran. In our country we seek to revive religion and lofty celestial values. [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and his entourage performed noon and afternoon prayers led by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution.

Urges Solidarity Against Enemies

LD1611134493 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Speaker of the Sudanese parliament Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah said here Monday [15 November] that the enemies accuse Sudan of terrorism because of observing Islamic principles in its programmes.

In a meeting with the chairman of the assembly of experts, Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, Khalifah said that through exerting more efforts in promoting Islamic solidarity, the Muslim governments and nations of Iran and Sudan could act as models for the Muslim world.

He said that the two countries enjoy deep bilateral relations and are able to thwart the conspiracies of the

enemies of Islam and the holy Koran once they further strengthen their mutual friendship and brotherhood.

Ayatollah Meshkini referred to the success of the Islamic revolution in implementation of Islamic principles in Iran and said that Tehran and Khartoum made the ideal of "neither west, nor east" happen in the Islamic world of today.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran feels committed (to solve) the problems of Muslims and favors growth and prosperity of Islamic nations in all fields.

Khalifah heading a delegation arrived in Tehran Friday.

Kuwaiti Charge Delivers Message to Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1511184693 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] At a meeting this afternoon with the director general for the Persian Gulf of our Foreign Ministry, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Tehran handed over a message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait, to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At the meeting the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires expressed the hope that Tehran-Kuwait relations would further expand.

'Inhuman Methods' of Egyptian Police Assailed

NC1411084393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Commentary by News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The Egyptian security forces, who are seeking a way to mitigate the antiregime activities of opponents, have recently resorted to collective punitive tactics. In the recent clashes in Asyut, the Egyptian police employed these inhuman methods. They closed all stores in the city with the exception of fruit markets and pharmacies; in practice, they forced the people in that city to remain indoors without a formal announcement of a curfew. In conjunction with such punitive practices, the Egyptian police often attack people with batons and blindly arrest them on the pretext that they did not capture those who attack government forces.

According to political observers, the Egyptian police's embarking on such collective chastisement measures is worth appraising from certain angles:

First, the use of such tactics indicates that all former measures have mired down. Second, the collective punishment of people—which has been banned by all international norms and regulations—highlights the fact that the trend of opposition has greatly heightened in Egypt and the government is utilizing all means, both lawful and unlawful, to quell it.

Third, and most important of all, is the police's attitude toward the ordinary people, which raises the significant issue that the Egyptian police do not believe in differentiating between ordinary people and opponents. This is because the opponents have a popular base and the government does not have the support of the people and is not even seeking to get it.

In the words of these political analysts, the mounting anti-government activity in Egypt, as well as the police's resorting to such collective punitive tactics, will only generate a massive fissure in Egyptian society and greatly widen the distance between the people and the system. This will place Egypt on the threshold of new developments.

Russian Cargo Plane Crashes Near Kerman

LD1611085693 Tehran IRNA in English 0757 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Kerman, Nov. 16, IRNA—A Russian cargo plane with 17 crew on board crashed in the suburbs of Kerman, south of Iran, at 19:04 hours local time (15:26 hours GMT) Monday. No report is yet available on the fate of the crew.

Antonov-124 crashed in Kabutar-Khan region, 50 kms west of Kerman, "despite receiving a positive answer for emergency landing from Kerman Airport," head of the airport B. Khorbak told IRNA this morning.

The plane was en route to Tashkent from Dubayy. Helicopters of the air support for the ground forces (Havanirouz) rushed to the site of the crash for a search operation. The operation, still under way, started over western part of the city and extended to 'Jupar' region, east of Kerman.

Wreckage of Plane Found

LD1611110693 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Kerman, Nov. 16, IRNA—The wreckage of the Russian cargo plane Antonov-124 was found this morning in 'Jupar' region, east of Kerman. No reports are yet available about the fate of the crew. En route to Tashkent from Dubayy, the plane crashed in Jupar after it had received clearance for an emergency landing at Kerman Airport.

The governor general of Kerman Province, Hoseyn Mar'ashi, said that at 10:45 (Kerman time) two search helicopters swept the Jupar heights for a rescue operation and to locate the black box.

The Russian plane crashed at 19:04 hours local time (15:26 hours GMT) Monday [15 November]. The plane belonged to Dubayy-based Globe Trotters Tourism and Cargo and its pilot was Anatoliy Lubianitskiy.

The Jupar region, a mountainous region 2500 meters above the sea level, lies 35 kms. east of Kerman.

Aeroflot Representative: Plane Not Russian

LD1611120293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Tehran, 16 Nov—[passage omitted] Although the IRNA report asserts that the aircraft was "Russian," this does not correspond to the truth. As the ITAR-tASS correspondent has learned from sources connected with the Islamic Republic of Iran civil aviation organization, the AN-124 did not belong to any Russian airline.

Anatoliy Astapovich, the Aeroflot representative in Tehran, also stated that the aircraft involved in the crash was not Russian, since no information about its flight had been received at the Russian airline's office from the flight control services. According to him, either the aircraft belonged to one of the former Soviet republics and was carrying out a chartereH flight, or it had been leased to Iran, possibly for use in the air force. In reply to a question by ..e ITAR-TASS correspondent as to which of the former Soviet republics he had in mind, the Aeroflot representative suggested that it could have been Ukraine, which had recently "virtually monopolized the production and use of this type of aircraft".

As for the IRNA report, the error is possibly explained by the fact that Iran has not yet drawn a clear line between the new independent states formed since the break-up of the USSR, and therefore often uses the words "Russia" and "Russian" incorrectly.

Editorial Criticizes Armenian 'Aggression'

NC1511115693 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 4 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Armenian Aggression A Dead End Street"]

[Text] The continuing Armenian aggression in Nagorno-Karabakh and seizure of Azerbaijani territory is a symptom of what the 'new world order' announced by a triumphant former President George Bush, in the wake of America's throttling Iraq through Jan.-Feb. 1991, is really all about. In truth there is nothing new, only old tactics with fresh labels.

There are, however, differences. One glaring point is that Bush's weak-sister successor, Mr. Bill Clinton, is hardly cut from the stuff to lead a globe-cop America—nor can the economy sustain the cost. In addition, Russia which was to play second fiddle in the new scheme, seems to be reverting to czardom, if not worse and President's Yeltsin's physically pummelling of his opposition last month bodes ill for the nascent democratic institutions that were supposed to have been budding there.

The Russian example is instructive. Its being touted by Washington as a partner in world 'democratization' is now something of a joke. The tactics being employed to keep the old Soviet Empire intact through new instruments are deadly serious. Notice here tacit American and British approval. Also be aware that the 1m Azeri refugees, 670,000 who are existing in unsettled and life threatening conditions, plus the 32,564 who had crossed the Aras River into Iran as of Sunday midnight, are simply not on Washington's agenda.

Keeping Boris in play is American policy and democratization is the fig-leaf that has been stripped away in the process, leaving one senior United Nations veteran of 25 years of refugee crises to comment knowingly that military aggression, not the politics of consensus, is the essence of Russian political culture of the past several centuries.

What then we are no witnessing in the CIS states is traditional Russian politics aimed at keeping all potential recalcitrants in lie. It is no coincidence that Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze made obeisance in Moscow last month to President Yeltsin and the new instrument of old Soviet control—the CIS.

Both presidents' countries were under siege by covertly backed Russian insurgencies that were enjoying successes far out of proportion to their own indigenous strength. Moscow's pressure on Georgia has now eased. Indeed Russian troops are now engaging Mr. Shevardnadze's antagonists.

Not so with Azerbaijan, where Armenian forces control the southwest region and one-third of the entire republic. Anyone conversant with the economics of Armenia, despite the internal political disarray that has characterized Azerbaijan for the past year, knows Yerevan simply does not possess the means to sustain military adventurism at the rate it has been doing.

Nor is it happenstance that the latest wave of Azeri refugees into Iran coincided with President Rafsanjani's presence in Baku. The cease-fire he brokered and the quick disappearance it suffered all fit a pattern of Armenia's increasingly apparent belief that the support it enjoys from Moscow, and ultimately from a Washington seeking to keep President Boris Yeltsin afloat, are for more important than Tehran's goodwill which has been repeatedly demonstrated in brokering truces between Baku and Yerevan.

Armenia is also being goaded into thinking it will be allowed to change internationally recognized borders by force. This is an attitude that should set off alarm bells in the internationally community, as did Iraq's declaring Kuwait its 19th province. Nothing of the sort is happening.

Officials in Yerevan however, are living in a real fool's paradise if they believe their till now successful aggressions will continue apace. Iran is very sensitive to both changes of borders by force and refugee influxes. Armenia would be will advised to consider this. Nor has the shelling of Iranian territory by the Armenians gone unnoticed.

Real wisdom on Armenia's part would consist of pursuing a good neighbor policy with all regional states. The officials should also take note that President Yeltsin is a

very long way from being Peter the Great. Just last Sunday his own home region of Sverdlovsk declared itself the Urals Republic, suspending Russia national radio and television broadcasts.

As for support of any stripe from President Clinton being channeled through Yerevan, via Moscow, aimed at keeping Central Asia the sole preserve of Russia, that should be viewed as less useful than was the much stronger George Bush's call for the Kurds of the north and the Shiites of the south to revolt against Saddam.

Editorial Views Azeri Refugees

NC1511121893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY) in English 4 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Human Catastrophe"]

[Text] About seven to ten thousand Azeri refugees cross the Aras River every day, arriving in Khoda-Afarin region. Tens of thousands of Azeri refugees are in urgent need of warm clothes, according to responsible authorities. Medical facilities and medicines are also among the urgent requirements of the refugees.

Large groups of men and women have been left homeless after the Armenian forces completed their occupation of Zangelan region.

And perhaps the most horrible aspect of the refugees' exodus is their attempt to cross the Aras River by swimming through ice-cold waters which has so far left behind several casualties.

Unfortunately the international community's response to the crimes resulting from the aggression have not been strong enough. And if we were to take a closer look at the 4-year war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, we would certainly come to the conclusion that the Western countries and Russia have been behind most of the crimes of the recent years.

In fact it has become quite apparent that the West and Russia have engaged in outright sabotage of the Iranian mediation efforts of two years ago.

They have probably been pursuing this unsavoury policy under the delusion that a peaceful settlement of the crisis brought about through the Iranian mediation would greatly augment the Iranian influence in the Caucasian region.

At the same time the West and Russia have deceived the world public opinion by arranging for the issuance of resolutions 874, 853 and 882 which demanded the expulsion of the Armenian aggressors from the Azeri territories.

And the fact that their mass media make no mention of the tragic fates of the refugees, is only an attempt to deny the responsibilities of the West and Russia in the criminal acts.

At the same time it is quite obvious that they do not wish to attract attention to the valuable efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in accepting and accommodating the refugees in the camps created by Iran.

The West has been practicing this complicity of silence against Iran for the past ten years during which Iran accommodated millions of Afghani, Kurdish and Iraqi Shiites. Such an extraordinary humanitarian act on the part of a country whose economy had suffered greatly during an imposed war, has never been admitted by the Western media. They could never exhibit the required sense of fair play required for their admission before the world opinion of what Iran had done for the refugees of several wars.

Immediate Airlift of Aid to Azeri Refugees Urged

LD1411215893 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Parsabad Moghan (Ardebil Prov.), Nov. 14, IRNA—The sudden fall in temperatures as a result of heavy snowfall in the Iran-Azerbaijan border areas, is seriously threatening lives of the war displaced Azeris settled in Imishli and Sa'atli camps.

Representative of the Islamic Republic Red Crescent Society (RCS) for Azeri refugee affairs, Mr. Aligu here today called for immediate airlift of relief aid for the refugees who have been made homeless as a result of the Armenians' latest offensives.

He said that routes blocked by the snowfall have disrupted shipment of emmergency requirements, especially bread for the said refugees who are in dire need of fuel and foodstuffs.

He put the number of refugees in the area at about 1,200,000, of which only 500,000 were accomodated in camps, while the rest remain helpless, languishing in a deplorable condition.

Aligu crticized the indifference of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and regretted that the organization has taken no positive measures so far to accomodate the Azeri refugees and supply them with their basic requirements.

Iranian-Turkmen Provinces Sign Agreements

NC1511065293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Some 12 economic, commercial, and tourism agreements were signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan. The agreements were signed at the end of talks between officials of Mazandaran Province and Balkan Province of the Republic of Turkmenistan.

The Central News Unit reports that during the Mazandaran governor-general's visit to Balkan Province in the

Republic of Turkmenistan, it was also decided that more trade facilities will be extended to residents of the two provinces and that pavillions will be provided to individuals and companies from Mazandaran Province to offer Iranian goods in Balkan Province. A joint commission headed by the deputy governors of the two provinces will be formed to follow up the contents of the agreement.

Editorial: U.S. Needs Ties More Than Tehran

NC1511134893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 6 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Relations, Negotiations"]

[Text] A crowd of thousands thronged the streets outside the former U.S. embassy compound (den of espionage) on Thursday [4 November], the anniversary of the occupation of the embassy in Tehran.

The previous day, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i had talked at length on the injustices that had been committed by the U.S. during its 25-year of great influence in Iran.

There was one sentence in the Leader's speech which is of profound significance from a diplomatic point of view. The sentence relates to the American authorities insistence on having no preconditions for resumption of ties and on unconditional negotiations.

The statement, which is often repeated by the American authorities, implies that Iran is attempting to resume relations with the U.S., whereas in fact it is the United States that has been seeking to resume ties with Iran for the past ten years. No one has yet forgotten the trip to Tehran in 1986 undertaken by the former U.S. National Security Advisor, McFarlane who had come with a cake and a volume of the Holy Bible to arrange for the resumption of ties between Iran and the U.S.

Notwithstanding the American claim that after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, Iran has lost much of its geo-political significance, and therefore resumption of relations with Tehran is not of any vital importance, the events of the Persian Gulf War, and the eagerness exhibited by the other industrialized nations to infiltrate into the highly sensitive Persian Gulf region, have demonstrated that the propaganda on the theory of "ignoring Iran" is a totally erroneous idea socially in view of Iran's influential position in the region and in the Islamic world. This contention is confirmed by many Western statesmen, witness, for instance the latest remark by the German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel.

The Americans talk of unconditional negotiations because they owe Iran many things in almost all areas.

In the political sphere Americans will have to express repentance for all they have done in Iran during a 25-year period as well as for the injustices they have committed in the Islamic world.

The Americans owe Iran a great deal also on the economic level. For the past 14 years they have been holding Iranian assets in the U.S. without any reasons that could be acceptable in any international tribunal.

Thus it is quite obvious that the Americans' insistence on ruling out any preconditions for negotiations is only a diplomatic trick.

Consequently it is incumbent on our foreign policy officials to pay special attention to the Leader's statement, and always keep in mind that the U.S. is more in need of having relations with Iran that we are in need of ties with the U.S.

Editorial Denounces U.S. Efforts To Isolate Iran

NC1511135593 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Nov 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Seeking Independent Relations"]

[Text] The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, stated that Iran was a major economic and political power in the region and should not be driven into isolation.

He added that the German policy towards Iran was quite different from the American stance regarding the Islamic Republic, and that differences between Iran and Germany have always been very few and insignificant.

Iran and Germany have long and brilliant records of bilateral ties.

The two countries have extensive political, economic and cultural relations which have seldom been darkened by tensions or differences of view.

In fact even a cursory survey of bilateral relations between the two countries will demonstrate that relations between Iran and Germany have always been following an expanding trend. That is why relations between these two countries should serve as a model of Iran's good relations with a European country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always announced that it wants sound and good relations with other countries, provided the relations is not misused for unilateral objectives which jeopardize the national interests or even the sovereignty of the other party.

The United States has so far failed to create relations with the Islamic Republic and for that reason trying to disrupt Iran's good relations with other countries.

The U.S. is pursuing two objectives in its attempts to drive Iran into political isolation. One, to exert pressure on Iran so that it will be forced to accept the Western countries' conditions which will naturally be determined by the U.S. Two, to prevent the Islamic Republic from enjoying a prominent position on the international scene

and being turned into an ideal pattern for other countries. Because the growth of Islam will threaten the American interests.

America uses various pretexts such as violation of human rights or the supposed threat of Iran's military might to put pressure on the Islamic Republic and drive it into isolation.

At the same time the U.S. quite and abashed [as published] follows its expansionist policies in some of the countries in this region as well as in other parts of the world, without regard for human rights in those countries.

But the American attempts to disrupt Iran's relations with other countries are doomed, for Iran is significant in a variety of ways. On the other hand, other countries have a variety of interests not all of which correspond with those of the U.S.

Statement Issued on U.S. Embassy Occupation Anniversary

NC1411101593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Nov 93 p 2

["Text" of statement by the Tehran Militant Clergy Association on the occasion of the 4 November anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran issued on 1 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The month of Aban [23 October-21 November] commemorates the immortal epic of the Islamic Revolution. In the wake of the 15 Khordad [5 June] 1963 uprising, heroic resistance erupted against the belligerence of the traitorous shah and the criminal United States, which had seethed once again in 1964, when Imam Khomeyni (blessings be upon him) exposed the move for capitulation [preceding word in English] and stood up against the tyrants of the world.

He was the one whose voice resounded amid this suffocating tyranny when he said: "All our problems including Israel, stem from the United States!" Truly, who but the great imam could have raised such a strong and forceful outcry against the United States in that dark period?!

The day 4 November is a reminder of the great saga akin to the bloody and massive demonstrations of the students in 1978 and subsequently: the magnificent occupation of the den of spies of the criminal United States by the devout Muslim students in 1979, an action which was deemed "a second revolution" by the great imam and which he described as "an action more momentous than the first revolution."

All the memories of that day—that is, 4 November—the historic speech by the imam against the United States and his eminence's exile, the demonstrations by the students, and the occupation of the U.S. den of spies all converge toward one common point and that is, the uprising of a nation against the symbol of arrogance, corruption, and crime.

Even today, the powers of world arrogance are involved in mischief mongering, corruption, sedition, and pillage, of which the United States is the consummate embodiment.

Following the disintegration of the eastern superpower, the United States is seeking to govern the world and is in fact seeking to impose international despotism through savage repression of nations and the effacement and annihilation of the pure humane and religious cultures on the earth.

Regardless of the U.S. bandying of the human rights issue, human rights continues to be the most meaningless and lowly concept as far as the U.S. hierarchy is concerned, especially the rights of the oppressed.

The elements at the helm of the U.S. administration believe that their domineering and illicit interference in the countries of the world, their military aggression in other countries such as Panama, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, and so on, are aimed at ensuring human rights! They do not see any need for permission to interfere in the destiny of nations. Yes! From the vantage point of this diabolical superpower, the violation of the sovereignty and independence of nations is its birthright.

Today, the expansionism and arbitrariness that marks U.S. foreign policy have become an accepted norm. From the cultural point of view, the United States is a propagator of unbridled corruption, decadence, and liberalism. [preceding word in English] It is for this reason that the United States is opposed to all kinds of religious thought and the glorious injunctions of the Koran and Islam.

U.S. hostility toward religion and all its manifestations is so extreme that it is being predicted that in the future even the puppet regimes, such as those of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, that have a religious orientation—even though an American-style one—will not be tolerated by the United States.

Today, the term "political legitimacy" is an utterly meaningless concept in the U.S. lexicon. The United States supports coupist regimes with slogans of democracy. On the other hand, it attacks regimes which are truly democratic—such as that of the Islamic Republic of Iran—by wielding the club of human rights and democracy over their heads and labels them terrorists.

The United States continues this policy and has no qualms about supporting attacks on a country's popular parliament, which is the most democratic government institution. What is interesting is that all this takes place under the slogan of support for democracy!

Due to its inherently arrogant nature, the United States cannot tolerate the propagation and daily-mounting proliferation of the Islamic culture and the Islamic Revolution among the oppressed Muslim nations of the world.

Therefore, it plans and hatches various plots and schemes for the destruction of Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

The extent of the U.S. animosity and malice toward the Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran continues with even greater intensity than before and is an immutable fact. How regrettable it is when one does not perceive this animosity and speaks of "talks" and "relations" with the United States.

In view of the above reasons, and in the context of the lucid exhortations of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni (may God be pleased with him) the founder of the Islamic Republic, and the great leader of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow be extended—the Tehran Militant Clergy Association hereby declares:

"Talks" and "relations" with the criminal and domineering U.S. government? Never! This is the categorical stance of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, our nation, and our government which manifested itself in the hallowed national slogan of "Death to America!"

Our stance with regard to the United States is not a "seasonal" or "tactical" one. We deeply believe in the stance of our revered leader especially since:

"The hostility between the Iranian nation and the enemies of Islam, spearheaded by the United States, is interminable. Our nation and our officials have been nurtured by our imam and the Revolution. It is impossible for them to forget the inimical actions of the powers of world arrogance, headed by the United States and they cannot ignore the avarice and the overt and covert aggression of the United States" (Footnote) (From Khamene'i's speech addressed to Qom seminarians 28 November 1990)

"The Iranian nation's struggle is a sensitive one based on its slogans and is not seasonal or tactical. It is a struggle based on the Koran, and has deep ideological roots. We should struggle the most against the United States as it is the most arrogant of all. This is the perception of our nation." (Footnote) (From Khamene'i's address to teachers and workers, 2 May 1990)

"We will continue to tread our path in spite of our enemies and we will never resort to talks and relations with the United States." (Footnote) (From Khamene'i's address to students 1 November 1989)

Unfortunately, there are some persons who ignore this great gain of the struggle against the United States, while their contemporaries consider Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Revolution, to be a flag-bearer, the harbinger of freedom, and the deliverer of nations from the domination of the powers of world arrogance and the United States. They only take into account the prevailing standards of diplomacy, which is a major blunder.

It is a clear fact that today Iran and Islam—which are luminescent pearls which glitter in the eyes and hearts of the Muslims and freedom seekers of the world and provide hope to the oppressed and the deprived, which cannot be compared or equated with anything else—are the greatest impediments in the path of U.S. expansionism and belligerence.

In fact, even the Washington hierarchy has noted this reality; and it is precisely for this reason that from time to time they spread murmurings about a normalization of relations. All aware and perceptive individuals know that this is a false murmur and that the Americans are lying. They do not intend to normalize relations. Their sole objective is to distort the image of the Islamic Revolution and system in the eyes of the oppressed and the Muslims of the world, in order to mitigate the grandeur and forcefulness of Islam and the Revolution.

Thus, it is necessary for us once again to stress the consistent stance of our system with regard to the United States:

As long as the United States does not relinquish its domineering and arrogant attitude, its support of the despotic Zionist regime, does not pay reparations for shedding the blood of thousands of the martyred and wounded people such as the victims of the downing of the Iranian airliner, and does not return the pillaged assets of our nation, it can never be a party to talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran or have normal relations with us.

On the eve of the anniversary of the 4 November epics, the Tehran Militant Clergy Association deems it necessary to remind the heroic nation of the following points:

1. The pride-inspiring victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the political, military, economic, and cultural scene is due to the unity and solidarity of our nation in protecting and safeguarding the gains of our sanguinary Islamic Revolution. The valuable gem of unity and solidarity of the various sections of the people, groups, and officials of the system is the greatest factor in the victory of the Islamic nation. Therefore, the people should strive daily to deepen this unity in the face of the enemies of Islam and, as in the past, they should coalesce and consolidate their ranks even further.

In this regard, it is essential that the ummah should follow the exhortations of the great leader of the Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow be extended—and the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult], which is the firm bulwark of their victory and a bond of unity with the ummah.

2. At a time when the current governments of the East and the West are in the throes of their most unstable period, which in itself is the result of interference by the governments of the arrogant powers in the destinies of nations and their own governments lack of a popular base, the Islamic Republic of Iran's system is the strongest, most stable, and durable government of the region and the world. This stability and strength is the result of

the unstinting conscious support of the people of Iran for their officials and their system.

While expressing our appreciation to our dear and noble people for their support for the system, we call for their deep and consistent backing of the officials of the country, especially of the esteemed Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is bearing the brunt of the country's reconstruction.

3. While extending our gratitude to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their effective and useful measures in the construction and reconstruction of the country, we stress that Iran should be built by Iranians and we should not pin our hopes on any arrogant and bellicose foreign government or country for the revival and reconstruction of the country.

Our officials and administrators should realize that we cannot rely on anything but the efforts, maturity, and genius of the noble Iranian nation.

Those who believe that the country can be constructed at the expense of foregoing our campaign against the powers of arrogance and the United States are severely mistaken. The experience of the toppled rulers of the former Soviet Union is a valuable lesson to us and other nations.

4. The United States and its allies are pitted against Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran now as in the past, and have merely changed their methods and tactics. This reality should be borne in mind when our country's officials embark on their planning, especially of the Second Five-year Plan. Development plans should be formulated in such a way that they incorporate insurance and guarantees of our capacity for defense and resistance against enemies.

In this regard, officials should include in their strategy the provision of essential goods for the country. Our dependence on imports should be such that in special circumstances we can manage without them, and that we can meet our people's needs through indigenous production.

5. The enemy's cultural onslaught should continue to be the focus of serious national attention. Today's war of the powers of arrogance and the United States against the nations and the Islamic Revolution is a cultural war.

If they are able to defeat one nation in the cultural sphere, they will have ensured their success in the other fields. Therefore, we are witnessing today the invasion by the army of the imperialistic culture and thought against the ethics and religious beliefs of nations all over the world.

Today, thousands of radio and television beams using satellite technology, millions of magazines and newspapers, and billions of photographs and photographic slides have been used to attack those sacred values which are the fruits of the efforts of the prophets and great divine personages.

Thus, today it is our worldly mission to combat the multilateral cultural onslaught and to propagate the life-infusing luminous Islamic tenets and teachings to the people of the world.

We are confident that by depending on the hallowed Islamic culture we will be able to deal a real blow to the powers of world arrogance and the United States, and to expedite the dissolution of the capitalistic system of the West in the same manner as that of the eastern superpower and communism, which went headlong to destruction and decline.

In conclusion, it is necessary that the attention of the noble Iranian nation be drawn to the importance and sensitivity of the ceremonies to celebrate the 4 November anniversary, which are being convened by the Islamic Propagation Coordination Council. We request that all sectors of our society, especially the revolutionary Muslim students, participate in this display of unity and cohesion by the nation against the United States, which is also a unified act of obedience to the great leader. Once again, their resonant cry of "Death to America" should be heard over this divine land.

Reaction to Raja'i-Khorasani Letter Aired

Faction's Position Questioned

NC1511063893 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 27 Oct 93 p 3

[Unsigned letter from the "On the Other End of the Wire" column]

[Text] It has been quite a while since a letter was disseminated by one of the Majles deputies expressing the wish to forge relations with the United States to resolve the present problems. Why is it that the faction he belongs to, which sent him to the Majles as its representative, has not displayed any reaction to this matter? In principle, does not the propounding of such an issue—which is a dangerous phenomenon and could open the path for the United States—strive to remove the stigma of relations with the United States? On the other hand, the issue is being ignored so that eventually the deputy concerned will deny the whole affair and there will be no opportunity left to condemn him.

Letter Discussed

NC1311103193 Tehran SALAM in Persian 28 Oct 93 p 2

[First part of an unattributed three-part commentary: "One Letter, Scores of Questions"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Before deputies made their remarks at the 28 April [as published] session of the Islamic Majles, the esteemed speaker referred to a statement carried by the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in answer to remarks by Tehran deputy Yahyavi and Tehran deputy Raja'i-Khorasani following the speech

ahead of the agenda by Qomi, the Varamin deputy. This is worth discussing from various angles. [passage omitted]

Nearly three months ago, a letter signed by a Tehran deputy was passed around in the Islamic Majles. In it, the writer addressed the great leader of the revolution on the need to resolve the differences between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States. He urged swift action and—in the words of the writer—taking the initiative.

This letter and its contents did not get the extensive reaction mentioned in political and press circles. Some political groups expressed their views in detail, rejecting the proposal of the writer from the official tribunes [preceding word in English], including the Tehran Friday prayer congregation addressed by acting Friday Imam Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili. Some other Friday imams also rejected the writer's remarks as baseless.

As mentioned earlier, regrettably and contrary to expectations, the Majles deputies did not pay the necessary attention. Only a few deputies expressed their opinion tepidly in an effort to play the issue down. One such person was the Varamin deputy, who said in his speech ahead of the agenda:

Unfortunately, a while ago, one of the Islamic Majles deputies who raised slogans of following the line of the imam, obedience to Khamene'i, and support for Hashemi-Rafsanjani has now entered the Majles and disseminated a letter on the need for relations with the United States. In this letter, the topic of the power of the United States and its miraculous ability was mentioned in the call for relations with this pharaoh of our time, as if to say he had forgotten what our late imam said: "Iran will never offer its hand to the United States, not even if it is the last thing it does." Our great leader said: "I am opposed to relations with the United States and we don't need the compassion of a sworn enemy such as the United States. We don't seek relations or talks with the United States under any circumstances."

This deputy [Raja'i-Khorasani] earlier pleaded the case of relations with Husni Mubarak and called for the official recognition of South Africa. Today, he considers relations with the United States as a means to national prosperity and salvation. [passage omitted]

The motive for writing such a letter has not transpired and it is not clear whether the letter represents the thinking of an individual or vocalizes the opinion of the members of a group. But this letter's being a secret from particular political figures and members of the press and the way the Majles speaker propounded it have further heightened the ambiguity surrounding it. [passage omitted]

A further assessment of the leanings of the faction for which Raja'i-Khorasani was a candidate in the fourth round of the Majles election generates more questions and ambiguities, which will be discussed in the coming days.

Concluding, it must be stated that if an individual or individuals favor relations with the United States, they should not be tackled with invective or altercation. You should use the opportunity to hold debates and discussions to ascertain the opinions of the younger generation. This would facilitate research and investigation and give a greater depth to the history of the revolution and make nations more alert and vigilant. It would also provide a dire warning for the American people and the European nations and thwart other nations from blindly emulating the United States. They would beseech the almighty to expedite the advent of the lord of the ages, the savior of mankind.

Student Leader Cited

NC1311133093 Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Nov 93 p 4

[Excerpts] Baqeri, one of the members of the Central Council of the Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat [an Islamic students' organization], was interviewed by our correspondent yesterday on the manner of celebrating the 4 November anniversary. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on the Daftar-e Tahkim-e Vahdat view of the letter by Raja'i-Khorasani and murmurings of relations with the United States, Baqeri stated: We will announce our official stance in detail within the framework of the resolution after our march. In my opinion, the Raja'i-Khorasani letter issue is a deeprooted internal issue, not one that can be tackled individually. It is a line of thinking present in society. Sacrificing one or two individuals such as Raja'i-Khorasani, who is actually a pioneer of relations with the United States, won't make it subside or end. And this is not very appropriate, because the trend has its roots in various aspects and is evident in various parts of society.

It appears that particular overt and covert groups support him and peddle this trend in a calculated manner. People such as Raja'i-Khorasani and earlier, the Shiraz deputy who uttered some remarks in this respect can merely be considered as clearing the path or testing the mentality and sensitivity of the revolution on this issue. This demands a strong and sincere presence by all the system's forces.

Those who are sincere in their claim of a struggle with the United States and adhere to it genuinely should supersede all political and factional lines and propound this issue of relations in a concerted and forceful way, acting in a manner that uproots this thinking. [passage omitted]

Call To Publish Letter Discussed

NC1311121493 Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Nov 93 p 2

[From the "Hello SALAM!" feature based on telephone calls from readers]

[Text] [Reader] You wrote that Raja'i-Khorasani proposed publishing his letter in a newspaper so that instead of wasting words discussing it, the text would be placed before the people.

[SALAM] When discussion and criticism of such a letter are deemed by the Islamic Majles as an effort to create tension and political confrontation and efforts are made to hush up the issue so that it is forgotten, is there room for criticism and debate on the subject?

Velayati Comments on Relations With France, Turkey

LD1611114093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Discussing current problems in Tehran-Paris relations, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, during an interview, said: The Western countries, including France, on the one hand condemn terrorism and on the other hand grant asylum to terrorists. This policy of double standards contradicts France's claims about democracy and human rights.

Mr. Velayati added: We hope the French Government officials will reconsider their policy of granting asylum to the terrorist hypocrite elements [Mojahedin-e Khalq], before Tehran-Paris ties deteriorate further.

The foreign minister also condemned the act of throwing hand grenades at the French embassy in Tehran and the Air France office. Several days ago the Intelligence Ministry announced that the agent responsible for this attack, who is affiliated with the hypocrites, has been arrested.

Continuing the interview, Mr. Velayati totally denied the reports on the remarks allegedly made by the Turkish prime minister at a meeting with our country's deputy foreign minister. Some reports indicate that Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of Turkey, at her meeting with the Asia and Pacific deputy of the foreign minister, Mr. 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, last week said that should Iran refuse to participate at a joint operation against Turkey's Kurds, Ankara would directly attack the Kurds in Iranian border areas. Mr. Velayati said: Such an issue was never raised at the meeting between the prime minister of Turkey and Mr. Borujerdi.

Velayati Discusses Somalia, Bosnia With Italian Delegation

LD1511173793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Tedt] An Italian parliamentary delegation, led by Mr. Grazziani, the head of the Iran and Italy Parliamentary Friendship Society, met Foreign Minster Velayati this afternoon.

At the meeting, mutual ties and parliamentary cooperation between the two countries were discussed in addition to some regional and international issues.

Mr. Velayati criticized the United Nations for ignoring the atrocities committed in Bosnia and, on the other hand, encouraging America's military actions, which take advantage of the poverty of the Somalian nation.

Also at the meeting the head of the Iran and Italy Parliamentary Friendship Society described as important his country's relations with Iran as an important and strategic country. He expressed regret about the trend of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the presence of Italian forces in Somalia was strictly for humanitarian reasons.

Further on Nasr-1 Military Exercises in Persian Gulf

LD1511174493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] A reporter of the Central News Unit has sent a report from Ahvaz on the third phase of the Nasr-1 exercises held today on the Persian Gulf waters.

[Correspondent] The third phase of the Nasr-1 exercises was held today in the public sea lanes of the northern part of the Persian Gulf.

Nasr-1 exercises are being held in six phases for a period of four days to bring about increased coordination between the forces of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] and the Army, and also to assess the combat strength of the forces under the command of Fat'h Combined Tactical headquarters of the IRGC and the Army.

Also, in these exercises the participating forces are to employ techniques related to new tactics on naval warfare and coast to sea battles.

Participating units in the third phase of Nasr-1 maneuvers were as follows: Kowsar naval brigade, Imam Hasan, peace be on him, support naval brigade, engineering brigade, riflemen and marines battalions, as well as chemical, biological, and nuclear units, together with underwater battalions, mining, and mine sweeping units. They are all IRGC and Army units.

At this phase of the exercises, the participating forces identified the routes of traffic by the hypothetical enemy, they then laid mines against the enemy units, while their own mine sweeping vessels carried out their duties.

Also, battalions of frogmen destroyed enemy naval vessels and carried out amphibious operations, destroying the enemy installation and capturing the enemy headquarters.

Final Phase of Exercises Held

LD1611134693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] [Announcer] The sixth and final phase of the Nasr-1 exercices was held today on the Persian Gulf. My colleague from Hvaz reports:

[Reporter] Nasr-1 exercises are being held in six phases over a four-day period with the objective of bringing about increased coordination between the forces of the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] and the army. These exercises are also intended to strengthen the combat capability of the forces under the command of the Fatah Tactical Headquarters of the IRGC and the army.

In the sixth phase of these exercises the participating forces were units attached to Imam Hoseyn Naval Zone and the naval base of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces [regular army]. These included the following: Kowsar Naval Brigade, Imam Hasan—Peace be on him—Support Naval Brigade, Engineering Brigade, riflemen and marines battalions attached to chemical-biological-nuclear units, army marine craft, frogmen battalions and finally mine- laying and mine-sweeping units of the IRCG and the army.

Units participating in the exercises controlled communication systems and carried out underwater defense operations, destroying invading naval units of the hypothetical enemy. They also dispatched reinforcements to the operational theater, and brought enemy vessels under the fire of their gunships.

Maldives

President Starts 4th Term, Appoints New Cabinet

BK1111131493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 11 Nov 93

[Text] COLOMBO, Nov 11 (AFP)—Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom appointed a 25-member cabinet Thursday after assuming office for a fourth five-year term as head of state, Maldivian officials said.

Gayoom retained Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel in the same portfolio and kept for himself the vital posts of finance and national security, officials said by telephone from the capital Male.

The Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Ibrahim Hussain Zaki was made the new minister for tourism while Maldives high commissioner (ambassador) in Colombo, Ahmed Abdullah was named the new Health and Welfare minister.

Gayoom, 55, began a straight fourth term after taking oaths at a colourful inauguration ceremony attended by several foreign dignitaries including the prime minister of neighbouring Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickramasinghe.

Pakistan

Bhutto Wants Kashmir Talks as 'Separate Agenda Item'

BK1611070693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that Pakistan wishes to have a dialogue with India provided the Indian Government plays its part in creating a conducive atmosphere. This was stated by her during a meeting with the British parliamentary under secretary of state for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Mark Lennox-Boyd, who called on her in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister said this required that meaningful talks be held on Kashmir as a separate agenda item and also India should end its repression in the occupied Kashmir. She briefed Mark Lennox-Boyd about difficulties in Pakistan-India relations caused by massive repression in the Indian-held Kashmir which have been exasperated by the siege of the Hazratbal shrine by the Indian troops.

The British parliamentary under secretary of state said Britain as friend of both Pakistan and India was deeply concerned about the situation in Indian-held Kashmir, which was worsening day by day. He said it was British policy to be as helpful as possible to see Pakistan and India reduce tension and begin a dialogue. He also affirmed Britain's intentions to increase economic and trade relations with Pakistan.

The prime minister said her government is committed to ending the narcotics trafficking and promoting the social sector in the country.

At international forums and gatherings Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the Government will continue to support the right of self-determination of Kashmiris and to expose the ruthless Indian brutalities and violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. This was stated by her during a meeting with Barrister Sultan Mahmud Chaudhary, the president of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation League, in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister said cordial and pleasant relations cannot be established between Pakistan and India until the Kashmir issue is resolved.

Recent U.S. Statements on Kashmir Viewed

BK1511095793 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Nov 93 p 11

[Article by Eqbal Ahmad: "South Asia's American illusions"]

[Text] Recent statements by United States officials on Kashmir have caused much excitement in Pakistan and India. Beginning with President Bill Clinton's mention of the disputed state in his address to the United

Nations, the governments and Press in both countries gave American pronouncements an attention normally accorded to a major event.

Reactions in the two countries differed: In India, the Americans' statements invited consternation and protest; in Pakistan they have elicited widespread enthusiasm. The difference masks a similarity: both the Indian anxiety and Pakistani optimism reflect a shared post-colonial outlook, an assumption that the superpower alone can force this issue open and forge a settlement which India does not want and Pakistan does.

President Clinton's cognizance of Kashmir, as a trouble spot worthy of world attention, and Ms Robin Raphel's reaffirmation of America's position on it as disputed territory deserve to be welcomed by all who wish to see this question settled without too much more bloodshed and violations of Kashmiri rights. During the Bush years Washington's approach on Kashmir issue became inconsistent and counter-productive in so far as it focused on Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, India rather than Kashmir itself, and treated it as a problem of conflict management rather than of conflict resolution: The Clinton administration has signalled a healthy shift toward viewing Kashmir as an international conflict which demands resolution. It is undoubtedly a welcome change but it would be a mistake to exaggerate its significance.

The US is the world's paramount power today; its policy statements bear importance. But the weight they carry can only be in proportion to the conviction of decision, makers and the geo-political significance of the problem at hand. If one were to judge on these criteria, Kashmir is likely to occupy but a tertiary place on the American policy-makers' map. The responsibility of resolving the question is likely to remain, as Ms Raphel was at pains to underline, with the parties to the dispute—India, Pakistan and, above all, the Kashmiris themselves.

There is a measure of unreality in India's heightened anxiety and Pakistan's augmented hopes. A realistic look at American priorities and problems should help in disabusing one of undue expectations. A number of factors ought to be considered as likely to shape the Clinton administration's policy in South Asia, specially in relation to Kashmir.

One: South Asia occupies but a secondary position in American strategic calculations. The US is now the sole superpower not by virtue of its inherent strengths but as a consequence of the collapse of the USSR. As such, it is in a uniquely ironic situation: Its military muscles are highly developed, the world's strongest; but its economic arm is enfeebled and requires urgent invigoration. Therefore, the primary focus of US foreign policy must be those regions which would help define its recovery from the longest post-war recession—Japan, East and Southeast Asia, Western Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East. There are plenty of challenges in these regions to keep Clinton occupied.

Two: the management of transition in Russia and Ukraine are perceived in Washington as a central challenge. These countries are rich in resources, manpower, and skills; and Russia has historically been a primary factor in European politics. The extent to which America helps define their transition to capitalism shall define not its access to vast resources and a rich market but also its relations with Europe, Japan, and possibly China. It is a troubled region likely to consume American attention and make upon it unexpected demands.

Three: activism in foreign policy is not congenial to the Clinton administration. It came to power with a mandate to reform and reconstruct America at home, a mandate it has been trying to fulfill very hard and not very successfully. What international activism it can muster it has so far expended on East Asia and Russia. Elsewhere, pronouncements have not been matched by policy. Clinton himself entered the world arena a roaring lion against genocide in Bosnia; he ended like a lamb accommodating Boris Yeltsin's sectarian demands, European indifference, and British perfidy.

Four: there is a serious Clinton problem which does not spell 'promise' for American policy. Just before he entered the White House last January, an essay in this space had warned of "Clinton's Carter Legacy" (DAWN, Jan 17). It has argued that as in Jimmy Carter's case the "instinct and intelligence which Clinton's (foreign policy) appointees bring to Washington remain decent and superior. These men and women are likely to formulate policy shrewdly, with an eye to the future, focused on historical processes more than power, on diplomacy more than forces." It also noted that "the failures of Carter's foreign policy lay less in conception than in execution, less in analysis than in consistency. Above all, Carter lacked the will and capacity to withstand pressure of vested interests." And it had expressed a concern that Bill Clinton's administration shall suffer from the same weaknesses which "rendered Carter a floundering lame duck."

This concern has unfortunately actualised. Clinton's instincts were decent on Bosnia, and his intelligence was superior. But he did not stand up for principle, or for a policy which senior State Department experts and his own National Security Adviser had recommended. When confronted with perfidy and pressure, he of the NEW YORK TIMES and now its columnist, commenting on Clinton's foreign policy", had said: [sentence, quotation marks as published]

"Mr Clinton is letting America down and himself. The administration weavers, rationalises, and blames everybody in range... Mom, it was the UN that did it. Mom, that mean secretary-general is making faces at me. Mom, it was the American people, look how pale they get when American blood is spilled."

One can cite other less boorish but equally critical comments on the Clinton administration's "crisis of

confidence". The point here is that Clinton's shilly-shallying in foreign affairs is not likely to translate in South Asia as forceful and imaginative diplomacy to resolve the question of Kashmir. The logic of this conflict's resolution has to be found in South Asia itself; and no one bears a greater responsibility in this direction than the government of India and, to a lesser extent, Pakistan's government.

Official India ought to rise above the dependency syndrome to comprehend that the Kashmiris, not the Americans, have opened again the question of Kashmir, a right they exercised after allowing India no less than four decades of grace. India's failure has been astounding and absolute. It cannot go on making the Kashmiris pay for this failure, and it should not expect its inhumanity to be indulged by the world. India's options are reduced to accommodation and aspirations; it may discover in the burning vale a bridge to peace with its neighbours and the road to a South Asian Economic Community. The alternative is continued, fruitless dehumanising repression which can only distort India and eventually bring its people much grief.

Pakistan too must confront the realities of a Kashmiri environment significantly different from the past. New realities have rendered some of Pakistan's old positions obsolete. It will take political courage and vision to discover the new challenges and opportunities the Kashmiri uprising has posed for Pakistan.

Editorial Views Bhutto Remarks on Nuclear Program

BK1411094093 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Capping N-programme"]

[Text] PM [Prime Minister] Benazir Bhutto, while speaking to the Press in Quetta recently, said that Pakistan's nuclear programme was 'capped' during her predecessor's time, a status quo was maintained by the caretaker government, and the same position is being held today. Imposition of the Pressler Amendment by the US against Pakistan on the basis of these facts, she felt, was wrong. The programme's 'roll back' being demanded by the US as a precondition for the lifting of the Pressler Amendment was thus unjustified. The facts that emerge from this statement are: first, that the government which took the decision to freeze the programme at its present level, chose to deny itself the nuclear option, even when such an option was open to India. Second, that the status of Pakistan's nuclear programme was such that it could not attract the penalty that the Pressler Amendment prescribed. Third, that Pakistan was now being asked to take the programme even further back from the point which was at one stage found acceptable by the US government. The US, of course, has the sovereign right to interpret its own laws the way it likes but what surprises everyone in this country is the total lack of logic or fairness in that attitude. Does the US deliberately intend to give an unfair advantage to India in order to strengthen its hegemonic ambitions in the region, or does it want to push Pakistan into a position of subservience by denying it all means—nuclear and conventional—of self-defence? Even as we ponder that, the question that arises is: who ordered the freeze of the programme in the first place? Ms Bhutto says it was Nawaz Sharif while Sartaj Aziz, speaking on behalf of the former PM, has alleged that it was Ms Bhutto who compromised on the nuclear programme. Whoever did it and whatever the intention, a full disclosure of the issue must be made by the present government. Since this decision may have exposed Pakistan's security to serious hazards, the people have the right to know all the facts.

While a case can be made for exercising caution in matters of foreign policy and putting Pak-US relations on the line may not be prudent, but giving in on matters of vital security, can hardly be considered wise. The US has so far been giving Pakistan a timeframe to do its bidding regardless of its implications for Pakistan's defence. It may perhaps be time to give the US a timeframe to review its Pressler Amendment, failing which Pakistan should feel free to look after its security interests.

PRC Military Delegation Arrives for Visit

BK1311104093 Karachi DAWN in English 13 Nov 93 p 9

[Text] Rawalpindi, Nov 12—A five-member Chinese militia delegation arrived here on Friday [12 November] on a week-long visit.

They were received at the airport by Director-General, Welfare and Rehabilitation, Maj Gen [Major General] Muhammad Ashraf.

The delegation is headed by Maj-Gen Ma Shengyou, Deputy Auditor-General, and includes other senior officers of People's Liberation Army's audit department.

During their stay in Pakistan, the delegation will call on Adjustment-General Lt-Gen Moinuddin Haider and exchange views on matters of common interest.

The delegation will also visit Director-General, Defence Audit Service, Military Accountant-General, Administrative Staff College (Lahore), National Institute of Public Administration (Lahore) and Controller, Military Pension and Accounts Academy.

The visit will provide an opportunity to the defence audit services of both the countries to benefit from each other's experiences.

Paper Welcomes New President, Views Prospects

BK1411095993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Welcome Mr President"]

[Text] Stating the obvious often takes patience and it is rare that this is awaited with bated breath. Our erstwhile dismal national political panorama obviously had created that unusual situation. Hence, on the eve of his election, Mr Farooq Ahmad Leghari did well in reassuring everyone that being a symbol of the federation he would be non-partisan.

As the ultimate custodian of the letter and spirit of Pakistan's Consitution, he has little room to play partisan without sabotaging the edifice of a democratic order. He has further reassured everyone that during his tenure at least, there would be no threat to democracy. Although no slur on his predecessor might have been implied, those addressed by Mr Leghari could not have taken the reassurance independent of the presidential performance that was decidedly disastrous in case of General Ziau Haq and highly controversial recently when Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan ruled the roost.

Mr Leghari's election is a watershed in our history, for it is after a long time that the presidency returns to where it belongs—the domain of politics and not of bureaucracy, whether civilian or its military variation. Being a politician much longer than he had been a bureaucrat, Mr Leghari has all the potential of turning out to be a landmark in the nation's struggle for loosening the bureaucratic stranglehold on the state apparatus and ensuring confinement of each organ of the State to its allocated slot. It is an uphill task in a country that has long suffered frequent incursions of various institutions on each other's domain. It is doubly difficult in a milieu characterised by callous disregard for basic norms of political morality.

Leader of the Opposition Mian Nawaz Sharif had declared both in the National Assembly as also to Robin Raphel, the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, that his side would not try to destabilise the government and would play the role of a responsible and principled opposition. However reassuring these declarations may sound, they do not seem to stem from conviction. His own antics and those of his cronies at the penultimate stage of the presidential race seem to go against the grain of such a conviction. Had he really believed in the search for a consensus president, the offer of withdrawing his candidate would have been made well in time and not after the announcements of retirement by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Sardar Akbar Bugti, Air Marshal Asghar Khan and Mr Yahya Bakhtiar. Evidence suggests that the announcement surprised Mr Sharif who was hoping that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) would play spoiler for the Pakistan Peoples Party and enhance the chances of his candidate squeezing through in a trilateral contest. It would be difficult for Mr Sharif to reconcile his effort to persuade NDA leaders to go back upon their solemn nationalistic reasons for retirement with the demands of clean politics. Persuading fellow politicians to make spectacular somersaults may be someone's idea of a political show, but this circus does not enhance either the cause of value-based politics or brighten the somewhat sullied image of our politicians.

While welcoming Mr Leghari as the first President elected through a normal constitutional and political process, it is necessary to remind him of the long and arduous journey he has embarked upon. Apart from the conceptual changes he would have to work for in tandem with the elected representatives of the people, he would have to be mindful of some of the constitutional matters on which the past record of the presidency has left much to be desired. For one, the issue of provincial rights can be ignored only at grave risk to the nation. The attention to this issue has to go beyond the justification cited twice for dismissing elected governments. Right now, any debate on a revision of the list of federal and provincial domains seems a remote possibility as demonstrated by the Opposition's success in blocking the non-controversial bill on women's representation on the pretext that it should be part of a wide ranging draft on reformation of the Constitution. The one-upmanship that still dominates the thinking does not promise imminent success in any dialogue between the Government and the Opposition. All the same, it would be no mean contribution if the new President can lend a helping hand either behind the scenes or in full glare of publicity for an early dialogue on removing the monstrous anomalies bequeathed by a dictator.

Counting small mercies, all non-partisans will breathe a sigh of relief at the successful culmination of Mr Leghari's campaign. If nothing else, it removes the threat of a President-Prime Minister antagonism that has been a permanent feature of our national politics ever since Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo was felled by the devastating sword of the Eighth Amendment. Hopefully, the legislators may now feel confident enough to devote their attention to the work they have been elected for rather than keeping tabs on the intrigues that have resulted in the premature dissolutions of the assemblies.

Sri Lanka

Seaborne Troops Break LTTE Siege at Pooneryn

BK1311071493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Colombo, Nov 13 (AFP) - Sea-borne troops penetrated Tamil guerrilla defences Saturday and lifted a siege on hundreds of soldiers at a fallen army complex in northern Sri Lanka where over 800 people were dead or missing, the military said.

Security forces backed by air and artillery guns broke through lines of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to reach their trapped colleagues at the Pooneryn complex, an official spokesman said.

"The worst is now over. There are fresh hopes for the wounded survivors," the spokesman said.

The LTTE overran the Pooneryn army and navy facilities on Thursday, capturing military hardware and hundreds of soldiers.

Government Forces Consolidate Hold

BK1311113693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] The government has condemned the recent incidents of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] instigated violence, which has threatened the security of the UNHCR staff in Madu. These incidents have compelled the UNHCR to suspend its humanitarian activities in the Madu Open Relief Center with effect from the ninth of this month. The center in Madu has been in operation since November 1990 and the Palampiddi Center since September last year. These provide humanitarian assistance to around 32,000 civilians displaced due to terrorist activity. Government food supplies are transported and distributed through these centers with the logistical assistance of the UNHCR. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the temporary suspension will affect several components of the UNHCR program in the North. The Foreign Ministry said the immediate reason which led to the LTTE attempts to disrupt UNHCR activities was their opposition to the governments attempt to accelerate the resettlement of cleared areas in the North. The government deeply regrets the security threat posed to UNHCR personnel and notes that the well-being of the innocent civilians will be affected by the (disruption) of the joint humanitarian assistance program.

Special armed forces operations are now underway to consolidate their positions in Pooneryn. Several additional troop reinforcements have already been sent to assist the troops still in the area. The armed forces battle against the LTTE terrorists is still on. The operational headquarters of the Defense Ministry told the SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that as a result of attacks from both sides the Pooneryn camp is covered with thick smoke. The curfew which has been imposed in the North at 5 p.m. yesterday will be effective until further notice.

Death Toll Said To Exceed 1,000

BK1511082093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Colombo, Nov 15 (AFP)—The death toll from recent fierce fighting in northern Sri Lanka between Tamil Tiger guerrillas and security forces was set to exceed 1,000, defence sources said Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) announced over its clandestine radio Voice of Tigers that it had lost 470 combatants during the three-day offensive against Pooneryn military base last week.

Security forces are estimated to have suffered at least 500 dead and 400 wounded. Several more are reported missing after Thursday's attack on the 1,800-man Pooneryn base.

"The Tigers have given the names of their cadres killed. They admit losing 470 but we estimate that the actual figure could be much more," a military spokesman said.

The army had a heavy concentration of new recruits who had just six weeks of basic training in weapons handling and the camp was thinly defended when it was overwhelmed by a massive Tiger force.

Security forces Saturday broke through a siege to reach survivors at Pooneryn and a rescue operation to evacuate the wounded was still underway Monday. Many of the wounded were reported to have serious injuries.

Pooneryn Under 'Complete Control'

BK1511113493 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Pooneryn is now under complete control of the security forces. It came under heavy attack by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] on Thursday [11 November]. Defense spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angamana told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that additional troops have already been linked up with the remaining troops in the embattled Pooneryn complex. They are now in the process of consolidating the entire Pooneryn defense area. He said the government forces are also evacuating the wounded soldiers. They have been taken to the Palali air base and flown to Colombo. A considerable number of injured persons have already been brought to Colombo for treatment. Brig. Angamana pointed out that he was not in a position to give the exact casualty figures of the defense forces. He assured that it could be possible to do so in a day or two.

According to a release issued by the Presidential Secretariat, the defense secretary has appealed to volunteer medical officers to report to the Army Hospital in Colombo. The president has appealed to the public to remain calm and assist the authorities in caring for the injured and bereaved families. The president has also ordered service commanders to strengthen security at all military establishments, particularly in the Northern Province. The Defense Ministry reported that arms and ammunition seized by the terrorists abandoned in the jungle have been recovered.

450 LTTE Cadres Said Killed

BK1611114293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Defenses in the Pooneryn sector have been consolidated with more troops being inducted into the area. A communique issued by the Defense Ministry says that

a clearer picture is now emerging with regard to casualties and soldiers misssing in action. It is said that of the 1,800 troops stationed in Pooneryn at the time of the attack by terrorists, nearly 1,000 have escaped without injury. Around 500 who have suffered injuries have been brought to hospitals in Anuradhapura and Sri Jayewardenepura as well as the army hospital and general hospital in Colombo. Around 300 are still missing. Of them, about half is feared dead.

The Defense Ministry says that radio intercepts and military intelligence indicate that around 450 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres have been killed. Of them, about 125 are from Batticaloa, 75 from the Wanni, and 70 from Jaffna. More than 20 percent are reported to be in officer cadres. Of the 275 navy personnel stationed in Pooneryn and Nagathevanthurai, 150 have escaped without injuries or have suffered only minor injuries and are out of danger. It is likely that of the numbers still missing, quite a few are lost in the jungles. The troops from Pooneryn will be arriving in Nagathevanthurai today to locate these missing navy personnel. According to the Defense Ministry, the Air Force has continued to destroy with air attacks some of the heavy weapons and vehicles taken away by the terrorists from Pooneryn and Nagathevanthurai with an Air Force plane chasing two LTTE armored vehicles.